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# Korea Today

3
Juche 91 (2002)

**Glorify this year of President Kim IL Sung's 90th birthday as a year of a new**

# All-Out Effort in Juche 91

THE whole land of Korea is pulsating with the endeavour to implement the tasks put forward by the joint editorial of the newspapers of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Korean People's Army and the Kim IL Sung Socialist Youth League for this year.

The editorial is permeated with the inspiration to launch a strong campaign to glorify this year, which marks the 90th birthday of President Kim IL Sung and the 70th anniversary of the Korean People's Army, as the year of a new surge in the building of a powerful nation.

Last year leader Kim Jong IL toured to a number of regions of the country, including the provinces of North Hamgyong, South Hamgyong, North Phyongan and Jagang, making painstaking efforts for the nation's prosperity. His energetic and seasoned guidance, often on-site, brought about a new phase of development in socialist construction.

The Korean people, seeking to build on the achievements of last year, launched a general march early in the new year to carry out the tasks stipulated in the joint editorial, which is the embodiment of Kim Jong IL's ideas. As proposed by the editorial, different parts of the country, like Sinuiju, Chongjin, Kanggye, Sariwon, Hamhung and Sunchon, have effected a sharp increase in production.

The struggle of the Korean people is characteristic of the ethos of following the leader's idea faithfully and sharing their destiny with him.

Last year, when Kim Jong IL was engaged in foreign diplomacy, they made sincere efforts to please him on his return home with great labour achievements. Such a spirit has been seen in recent months, too, in the run-up to the nation's great holidays.

The current revolutionary advance is a laudable succession to the grand Chollima March the Koreans made in the past. It is a further development of the march of a higher level. Emulating the unshakeable spirit displayed during the Chollima March, the spirit that they were able to stand as long as they had the great leader's direction and their territory, the people are unfolding a new, glorious phase in the campaign to hasten the building of a strong nation. Despite many obstacles, they are erecting factories equipped with the latest technologies, cutting canals which will leave nothing to be desired for

**Poster: Stick to an independent stand in the** s **revolution and construction.**

The Torch of Ranam, which is followed by the whole country, is the continuation of the torch blazed in the period of the grand Chollima upswing

and the torch of Songgang in the 1990s. It is the light that illuminates the way ahead in the current all-out effort to build a strong nation.

The Ranam workers cherish the great confidence leader Kim Jong IL has in them as the vanguard of the revolutionary advance in the new century. They are determined to maintain the Torch of Ranam as the one that burns until the day the cause of building a powerful country is achieved.

Their example is encouraging all other enterprises; the spirit of implementing given tasks without fail and supporting the leader's policies whole-heartedly, not with words but action, prevails across the country Particularly noteworthy is the increased production. at

At the Ryongsong Machinery Complex, Kim Jong Thae Electric Locomotive Factory and other enterprise

**Surge in the building of a powerful nation!**

# Workers' Dream Fulfilled

The Rahung Concrete-Sleeper Factory is not well known in Korea.

Leader Kim Jong IL gave on-the-spot guidance at the factory in September Last year, one of a series of visits across the country aimed at promoting rapid economic progress.

Like their peers throughout the DPRK, the workers at the factory longed to meet him, but never did they dream that he would actually come to their workplace.

Kim Jong IL dropped in at several workshops, including the sleeper workshop, to learn about the actual state of production at the factory, and encouraged the workers to increase productivity.

He put forward solutions to the problems arising in the renovation of the aggregate weighing machine, the maintenance of temperature, the expansion of production capacity and the production of high-quality concrete sleepers.

During his visit he saw the operation of the wire mill, which was built by the workers and technicians of the factory.

Greatly motivated by Kim Jong IL's visit, the management and workers of the factory, filled with conviction and courage, are doing their best to achieve greater success in their work.

The managers, with the initiative, creativity and devotion of officers of the People's Army, have achieved success in their work through bold organization.

Their example is followed by the workers, whose efforts have helped to renew the factory with modern techniques and increase its production capacity.

The factory is now establishing another production process for 100,000-150,000 concrete sleepers a year, a project which involves all the workers.

The workforce, with careful control of the ovens, are producing a greater number of sleepers than at the same time during the previous year. The rolling workteam is ensuring the production of the iron bars of various sizes, keeping pace with the increase in sleeper output.

Workers at the railway workshop, too, are achieving success every day in the production of railway binders such as spikes and bolts, having launched a vigorous drive to increase production.

The workforce are now making strenuous efforts to solve technical and quality issues, arising from increased production, such as the introduction of a general control board for the production line, the prevention of noise of vibration and the modernization of the aggregate weighing work. This work has been bolstered by a mass campaign for technical innovation.

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which received Kim Jong IL's personal guidance, as well as units in the power, coal mining, metal and railway sectors, which have been nominated as the key sectors in this year's economic construction.

The new situation, where a strong campaign is being waged to encourage innovation in all fields of the revolution and construction, raises the need to do all work from an innovative point of view, and at a higher standard.

An unusual resolution and ardour to raise all industries and services up to world standards is sweeping the country. Precedence is given to ensuring the highest possible quality in production.

The project to reinvigorate the economy focuses on meeting the requirements of the era of information.

Korea's revolutionary advance is based on its own resources. Efforts to make a higher and faster advance are at all times ruled by the Korean way of thinking, and promoted by the country's internal forces. The entire population are displaying a firm belief in their own power in their work, upholding

control of the ovens, are producing a greater number of sleepers than at the same time during the previous year. The motto "Give precedence to the Korean ideology". With their eyes fixed on the world and their feet on the Korean land, they are accelerating the advance to develop all aspects of society--the economy and science in particular--along Korean lines and on the principle of self-reliance.

This year's march is a worthwhile effort to begin the march to a people's paradise; it will lead them to the building of a powerful nation.

The Korean people will be able to bring about a new era of strength and prosperity because they are wisely led by Kim Jong IL, General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, and also because they have great potential, a quality they created through their indefatigable endeavours under the rigorous conditions of the "Arduous March".

By forcefully hastening revolutionary progress this year, with strong conviction in victory and optimism, they will soon realize their bright future, the accomplishment of the project to build a socialist power.

**Glorify this year of President Kim IL Sung's 90th birthday as a year of new**

# Ryongname Coal Mine

The Ryongnam Coal Mine of the Kangdong Area Coal Mining Complex was inaugurated in September Juche 72 (1983).

It began its work with only a single pit and a small number of workers who lived around it.

Nearly twenty years have passed since then. In the intervening period the mine has changed beyond recognition.

It is now made up of basic production units, such as pits Nos. 1, 2 and 3 and the youth pit, as well as subsidiary units such as the repair and maintenance workshop, the transport workshop, the construction workshop, and the maintenance workteam.

The mine has been widely known in Korea over the years due to its overfulfilment of its annual coal production assignment every year.

However, "Arduous March" and the forced march the Korean people had to make owing to the obstinate attempts of the imperialists to isolate and stifle the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in recent years combined with the natural disasters which occurred over several consecutive years, exerted an unfavorable influence upon this coal mine in no small measure.

As electric power could not be reliably supplied, pits were inundated with water on many occasions.

Wooden props and small tools were also in short supply. However, management and workers at the mine neither hesitated nor wavered in the least.

They solved the shortage of electric power by scrupulously organizing alternative supplies. The shortage of props was overcome by economizing on the use of wooden props through the introduction of a rational way of prop-setting.

From the beginning of this year, the trees that had been planted around the mine began to be used as a source of wood for the first time, greatly helping the workers to maintain production. They are fully satisfying the demand for small tools by manufacturing them at the production base they have built by their own efforts.

The mine is also putting a lot of effort into technical development and is obtaining good results in this sphere.

The technicians at the technical development department regenerated helmet lamps which had already served their time by making use of locally available materials, relieving the shortage of these lamps. They have also developed the caustic soda and hydrochloric acid production processes and heat treatment ovens to produce materials needed at the mine.

A number of valuable inventions have been introduced into production by launching a mass technical innovation drive.

All the employees are working hard to produce more coal, upholding the Torch of Ranam.

**Pledging to cut more coal than ever**

**Surge in the building of a powerful nation!**

# KPA, Main Force for Powerful Nation Building

The Korean People's Army has become a revolutionary combat force that reliably defends their socialist country with arms. It is the main force for building a powerful and prosperous nation that pushes ahead with socialist construction.

In order to advance the revolution and construction successfully, there must be a powerful revolutionary force. If the supporting pillar collapses, so does the house. If the revolution has a weak pillar, it is impossible to carry out the revolution and construction successfully.

In previous years, the army was merely regarded as the means to defend the government, playing no role in creation and building. Now, however, the KPA is the shock brigade pushing ahead with the revolution and construction under the leadership of the supreme commander.

Socialist economic construction is the most difficult work that accompanies the imperialists' ceaseless moves to isolate and stifle the nation, and a fierce class struggle against enemies who attempt to destroy economic construction.

History illustrates that the building of a socialist economy has always been an arduous struggle to overcome the obstacles laid by the imperialists and reactionaries. It teaches the lesson that only when the imperialists' aggressive moves are frustrated by arms can the smooth progress of economic construction be guaranteed.

During the final decade of the 20th century, when the Koreans waged a do-or-die struggle to defend socialism, the KPA reliably defended and continues to defend the security of the powerful-economy construction by means of strong military forces from all military threats and obstructive moves from outside.

Victory in the cause of building a powerful economy can be guaranteed when it is defended with arms.

The People's Army always stood in the vanguard of the struggle to make a breakthrough in the days of the "Arduous March". when the enemies' stifling moves continued and the Korean people experienced grave economic difficulties owing to consecutive natural disasters.

The KPA was also involved in the work to solve the serious food shortages, as well as playing an important role in the power, coal, railway and other sectors.

Credit for the Koreans' full commitment to a powerful-nation building in such difficult circumstances, a situation in which others would undoubtedly have given up, goes to the KPA for its vanguard role.

The spirit of implementing one's tasks at the risk of one's life is the powerful weapon with which the KPA soldiers are achieving miracles and faithfully performing the assignments which civilians failed to do.

Thanks to the heroic endeavours of KPA soldiers, monumental edifices of the Workers' Party era like the Anbyon Youth and Rimjingang power stations were erected in great numbers, land transformation is successfully carried out in South Hwanghae Province following similar projects in Kangwon and North Phyongan provinces, and basic foodstuffs production facilities, and chicken, ostrich and catfish farms have been built at high standards. The fighting spirit and example set by the KPA has been followed by the whole of Korean society.

The Korean people are now vigorously building socialism, inspired by the Torch of Ranam, with the KPA, the main force for the building of a powerful nation as their strong support.

As they have the People's Army, the Korean people's efforts to overcome all trials and difficulties are sure to be crowned with victory in the near future.

Kim Il Ho

# For the Cause of Independence

The birthday of President Kim IL Sung (April 15) is approaching day by day.

With the passage of time, mankind is filled with respect and yearning for the President, who made undying exploits for the cause of mankind's independence.

Events to commemorate the Day of the Sun, his birthday, as a common holiday of mankind are taking place on a worldwide scale.

The global activity is an expression of the admiration and reverence for him from the people of the world.

Whenever one talks about the exploits the President made in the cause of the independence of the popular masses, the creation of the Juche idea is the first thing that is mentioned.

The greatness of a man is judged by his ideas.

In the whirlwind of the 20th century and the turbulent flow of history, President Kim IL Sung fathered the Juche idea with his energetic ideo-theoretical activities and revolutionary practice, opening a new era where the people independently carve out their destiny as the master of the world.

At present, more than 1,100 Juche idea study groups operate around the world.

National, regional, continental and world seminars are frequently held on the theme of the Juche idea.

The International Institute of the Juche Idea was formed in Tokyo in April 1978 as a permanent international organization.

The Study of the Juche Idea, the journal of the institute, is published in several languages. Juche idea institutes have been formed in Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America. This shows the greatness and magnetic power of the Juche idea.

President Kim IL Sung authored many great works to make an immortal contribution to the ideo-theoretical development of mankind and the realization of their cause of independence.

His works encourage the struggle of the world's revolutionary people to this day.

Traces of his painstaking efforts remain from his long journeys across Asia, Europe and Africa for the cause of mankind's independence.

"The world's people who defend independence, unite!" is a slogan commonly permeated with the President's immortal revolutionary exploits.

There are currently more than 200 large and small countries on the globe. They unanimously demand independence.

President Kim IL Sung put forward the slogan, saying that if mankind's independence is to be realized, those who demand independence must be firmly united.

The President met and gave advices to more than 70,000 people from different political and social strata of 136 countries, including party and state leaders.

Around the year 1990, socialism collapsed in a number of countries. At the time, not a few people were greatly disappointed, worrying about the independent and socialist causes of mankind.

At this juncture, President Kim IL Sung said, "We should not hesitate because of temporary phenomena that took place on the way of the process, but instead advance with confidence in victory, and carve out the right track of history by believing in and relying on the strength of the people."

In April 1992, the Pyongyang Declaration "Let Us Defend and Advance the Cause of Socialism!" was adopted, causing a great sensation.

The Pyongyang Delaration gave fresh vigour and vitality to the causes of independence and socialism. Hundreds of communist and workers' parties, and parties aspiring after socialism, signed the declaration.

President Kim IL Sung's name was put to more than 450 organs in over 100 countries in order to hand down to posterity the exploits of the man who made a great contribution to people's cause of independence.

In praise of his ideo-theoretical work, the Kim IL Sung Encyclopedia was published in India in 1992, reflecting the unanimous desire of the world's, progressive people.

President Kim IL Sung's legacy is being built on by leader Kim Jong IL, and the people's cause of independence is being carried forward as vigorously as ever before.

# Pride of Korean Women

The whole country wishes women a happy future on the occasion of International Women's Day on March 8.

Colourful functions are being held everywhere for the women of the country and voices of praise for them abound, for they are contributing in no small way to the building of a strong and prosperous nation as the flower of the revolution, the flower of the country and' the flower of life.Before Korea's Liberation from the yoke of Japanese colonial rule, they were victims of national tribulation who were withering away, Leading a tearful, miserable Life, deprived of their dignity and rights as human beings, on the grounds that they were born women.

Looking back upon those days we can find veteran anti-Japanese women fighters who took the road of the Korean revolution to bring about the country's liberation by defeating Japanese imperialism, who are now regarded as the flowers of Mt. Paektu.

They rendered distinguished military service in every battle, with arms in hand just like the men, and made a great contribution to the cause of the country's freedom.

The noble spirit of the women revolutionaries is being carried on generation after generation, and the brilliant feats they performed by displaying this spirit occupy a glorious page in the history of the Korean women's movement. During the Fatherland Liberation War (June 1950-July 1953), Korean women. turned out in the struggle to defend their country and dedicated the springtime of their lives as true daughters of the country. Some of them became pilots and fought bravely to defend the sky of the country, while others destroyed enemy tanks, turning themselves into human bombs.

Women in factories worked on Lathes to turn out the required products and those in rural areas tilled the soil, taking the place of husbands and brothers who had gone to the front, in order to ensure wartime production. Their efforts made a great contribution to bringing earlier the day of victory in the war.

In the difficult and complicated post-war period, too, Korean women lived and worked in the vanguard of the nation-building effort, never losing confidence in victory.

When the country was experiencing harsh ordeals owing to the imperialists' attempts to isolate and stifle the country they turned out to defend Korea's sovereignty with the willingness to fight a life-and-death battle against the enemy.

They always preserved the happiness of their families with a smile on their faces, handing over even their portion of gruel to their husbands and children.

Mothers tightened their belts after serving their children with all the substitute food they had obtained with great difficulty. When a child looked at his mother with tearful eyes, she would say, "It is due to the US imperialists that we are suffering such troubles. We must remain strong, never forgetting this fact. I feel strength welling up in me even though I do not take meals if I see you defend your workplace without losing your faith."

Even in the most difficult days the Korean women defended their country, inspiring their husbands and children and pushing them forward on the road of creation. But their devotion has not been confined to their families alone.

Among the women are mothers who have made all their children set out on the road of national defence, those who have become the companions for Life of soldiers who were disabled while serving their country in the army, those who have become mothers of children bereft of their parents, those who have become the daughters of childless old men, those who are dedicating their youth to scientific research, those who have brought honour to their country in the eyes of the whole world by winning titles at the world championships, and those who are the first to rush to any difficult place and work hard, sweating blood if it is for the building of a rich and powerful country and the creation of happiness. Everywhere in this land they are performing feats of labour, giving full play to their revolutionary zeal and creative activity in the effort to make the future of the country brighter.

The strength of Korean women is inexhaustible, as they are filled with the pride of leading a genuine life, confident of a bright future for their country.

*Yun Yong Gum*

# Women Educators' Honour

Choe Sun Yong.

Jo In Suk.

Choe Sun Bok.

Kim Chaek University of Technology, the country's leading center for scientific and technological education, employs many women scientists who have distinguished themselves in the training of competent technical personnel and research projects.
A Korea Today reporter recently met women lecturers at the university to talk about their achievements as International Women's Day approaches.

Participants.

Associate Professor Choe Sun Yong of the computer faculty

Associate Professor Jo In Suk of the electronics faculty

Associate Professor Choe Sun Bok of the power-driven machinery faculty

Reporter: I hear that graduates of this university are now playing a pivotal role at work. places across the country, which is seething with activity to has ten the building of a country of great prosperity, following the torch lit at Ranam. This must be particularly gratifying for those who trained them.

Choe Sun Rok: As you know, the pride of lecturers lies in the development and achievements of their former students.

When I first stood on the teaching platform as a young woman with bobbed hair, I could not look at the students full in the face. Whenever I hear that my old students have grown into capable leaders doing their bit for the country, my pride and honour as an educator become greater.

Reporter: It is said that students become men and women of ability only when their teacher has ability.

The fact that the graduates of the university are contributing a large share to socialist construction proves that the standard of the lecturers at the university is very high. Wouldn't you agree?

Choe Sun Yong: Of course.

Our university has worked hard to improve the abilities of the lecturers.

Lecturer Choe Sun Bok took the top place in a nationwide

teaching contest in the higher educational sector and has given demonstration lectures on 15 occasions.

Her lectures are favourably commented upon because they reflect the realities of life and are given in a vivid and interesting way by making practical application of modern teaching methodologies, helping every student to discover and learn for himself.

Choe Sun Rok: I feel ashamed, because I don't believe that the work I have done merits the solicitude shown for us by the state.

I was a country girl. Bereaved of my father in my childhood, I grew up under the care of my widowed mother, who worked on a farm.

My father and mother had no access to schooling whatsoever. But I was born immediately after the country's liberation (August 1945), and could study at Kim IL Sung University, the most prestigious educational institution in the country, without having to pay even a penny. After graduation I was assigned to Kim Chaek University of Technology as a lecturer.

In everything I do, I want to do it in an extraordinary way and Leave something great behind for the society which treats women as equals of men.

Jo In Suk: Her opinion mirrors the feelings of all women lecturers at our university.

Before the country's liberation from Japanese colonial rule, women were restricted to farming work or a life as a housewife.

But today, we women educators can do anything if we are determined enough.

Reporter: I have been told that a woman Lecturer has trained all the students of a class under her charge into Masters of Science or candidate Masters of Science.

Choe Sun Yong: She is Jo In Suk. Much is expected of their futures as they are just out of their teens.

Reporter: I know that the women lecturers are also playing an important role in making the national economy of the country more Juche-oriented, modern and scientific.

Choe Sun Rok: Yes, they are. Scientific research is difficult work, requiring the opening up of an unknown world.

All the women educators have buckled down to this undertaking without hesitation and pushed ahead with it vigorously, despite facing many difficulties.

When the matter of modernizing the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex was raised, Lecturer Choe Sun Yong changed the research project she was preparing for her doctor's thesis before she went to the complex.

She spent months conducting painstaking research, finally succeeding in completing a system of rational operation and the establishment of an automated control system at the complex.

Jo also developed a variation of the Hall chip during the years of the "Arduous March" This was no easy task.

Jo In Suk: Electricity was in short supply, to say nothing of equipment and materials. Nothing went smoothly.

At times we had to walk a long way to obtain a material necessary for our research, and at other times we had to skip our meals.

When the product I had made proved unsuitable, I was so disappointed that I felt it difficult to get to my feet.

Sometimes, I even thought that it would be wiser for me to give up my research work and confine myself to playing the role of wife and mother.

But the level of support the state had shown for us made me brace myself up again whenever I felt my heart sinking.

The state takes charge of our children's development so that we do not have to worry about our family life. In addition, it ensures that we do not feel any inconvenience in our life by setting up rice cookeries and foodstuff factories everywhere. How modern the maternity hospital for our women is!

When I thought of all these things, I felt ashamed, because I had been feeble-minded for a while. We have now succeeded in the manufacture of the aforesaid magnetic field sensitive element with our own materials and techniques.

Reporter: Through our discussion I have come to know that our women are vigorously turning one wheel of the revolution.

I hope that in the future you will continue to achieve good results in the training of technical personnel who can shoulder the future of the country, and in your scientific research, filled with confidence and optimism. Thank you for making the time to meet me.

**Quotes from Kim Jong IL**

“If the people so desire, flowers should be made to come from the stones.”

“Peace and the victory of socialism rest on the bayonet.”

“Where there is labor of man, there are songs, and where there are songs. there is always optimism.”

# Letter of a Veteran Fighter

In early March 1982, when the flowers had begun to bud, a veteran fighter was receiving medical treatment at a sanatorium.

One day, he unexpectedly received a letter from leader Kim Jong IL, together with a gift, delivered by an official from the Central Committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea. The leader had sent them on the occasion of the veteran’s birthday.

The veteran was overwhelmed with emotion, and could find no words to express his thanks to the leader. During his stay at the sanatorium, he had forgotten that his birthday had been approaching.

Tears rolled down his cheeks as he read Kim Jong IL’s letter, because the leader had remembered the birthday that he himself had forgotten.

The earnest congratulation letter bore clear testimony to the nobility of the leader, who not only respects and honours veterans like him who pioneered the path of the Korean revolution, led by President Kim IL Sung, but also trusts them as his closest comrades.

The veteran was so excited that he put out sheets of paper on his desk and began to write a letter of thanks. Though it lacked the decorative words one might expect from a professional writer, it reflected the veteran’s sincerity.

The letter was sent directly to the leader, who had been in conference with officials. With a bright smile on his face, he read the letter before showing it to the officials.

The leader said, "He is a veteran who loyally followed the President from the days of Wangquing. In this regard he is more a comrade-in-arms of the President than his soldier. That is why I respect and love the veteran fighter."

Overwhelmed, with reverence for the leader, who talked about the veteran with great affection, the officials came to understand very well why he had wanted them to follow the loyalty of the veterans whom he always put first.

The officials then heard him say, "I intend to make sure that this letter is preserved as a national treasure.”

Moved by the incident, the officials realized that the veterans of the revolution worship and follow Kim Jong IL as their leader, charmed by his modest personality and genuine affection and obligation out of which he embraces all the revolution-ary soldiers.

After a while, the leader, with a thoughtful Look, said earnestly to the officials, “Man should not fawn upon the powerful. Having nothing to do with flattery is the trait of the Workers' Party of Korea. I hate fickle persons.

"As I always say, it won't do that you follow me simply because I am the secretary for organizational guidance of the WPK CC. I want you to follow me as a person, irrespective of my position.

"Following people according to their position means currying favour with the powerful. Those who curry favour with the powerful fawn upon the people of high rank, but iguore them completely when they are demoted. Those who, without faith or a sense of obligation, treat their comrades only out of their own selfish calculation and who would sail with the wind are likely to follow us in the days of glory but would go the other way in difficult days. No one knows how they will respond to an emergency.

The profoundness of his words made the officials realize more keenly than ever the source of the single-hearted unity of the WPK.

**From Kim IL Sung's Reminiscences " With the Century"**

# Fighters from Northern Manchuria

One or two days after our arrival in Khabarovsk, An Kil told me that Choe Yong Gon was not far away. He added that Choe had been eager to meet me, and that when he learned of my arrival he would come at a run. I, too, was eager to see Choe Yong Gon. Like Kim Chaek, Kang Kon, Ho Hyong Sik and Pak Kil Song, he was a comirade-in-arms whom I had wanted to meet for a long time.

The primary aim of the second expedition to northern Manchuria

WA organized when we were acve in the Jiandao area was to meet Kim Chaek, Choe Yong Gon and other Korean comrades-in-arms there and help their struggle. To our regret, however, this aim was not fulfilled at that time owing to unavoidable circumstances.

I heard that Choe Yong Gon sent liaison mien to us four times. One of them is said to have gone as far as Dunhua before turning back.

It was the common desire of all the Korean communists who were active in various areas of eastern, southern and northern Manchuria to collaborate, cooperate and achieve solidarity among themselves.

Choe Yong Gon was one of the outstanding people who had played a leading role in the building of the Anti-Japanese Allied Army in northern Manchuria, especially the formation of the 4th and 7th Corps. Before he came to the Far East region, Choe Yong Gon had been active as chief of staff of a corps.

Pak Hun, a graduate of the Huangpu Military Academy in southern China, was the first to tell me about Choe Yong Gon. This happened when we were stepping up training following the founding of the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army in Antu. Our greatest headache in those days was a shortage of military instructors. Although we had organized the guerrilla army, we had only one military expert capable of giving training to it.

Whenever Cha Kwang Su, Pak Hun and I gathered, we discussed where we could get military experts from. So Choe Yong Gon naturally cropped up in our talks.

Pak Hun said to me: "After the decease of Sun Yat-sen, the period of collaboration between the Kuomintang and the CPC came to an end. As a consequence, all the young Koreans who had been at the Huangpu Military Academy dispersed. Choe Chu Hae is one of them and is worth contacting. He had been a training instructor at the academy. If there were one or two people Like him, they would be of great help to us. I wonder where he is and what he is doing now."

**Choe Yong Gon**

Later, I found that Choe Chu Hae was one of Choe Yong Gon's aliases; others were Kim Ji Gang and Choe Sok Chon.

On hearing that Choe Yong Gon was in Khabarovsk, I suggested that we should go to see him first instead of waiting for him to come to us.

When I arrived at his quarters following An Kil, Choe Yong Gon jumped to his feet and gazed at me for a good while. He was a typical military officer, with square shoulders.

"I failed to meet you, Commander Kim, in Manchuria, but I see you here in Russia," said he by way of greeting, grasping my hand. His eyes were full of tears. He said he had heard that I would arrive in Khabarovsk soon, but he did not know I was already there. Then he repeatedly expressed his regret at receiving me at his quarters instead of himself coming to see me.

"It has been my lifelong desire to fight alongside you, Commander Kim. I am extremely glad to meet you like this. Let's not part again."

Choe Yong Gon had gone through many twists and turns since he embarked upon the revolutionary road. He said that, as we had, he had joined the revolution as a member of a student movement.

**When Choe was attending middle school, he led**a strike of sudents against the American headmaster. The headmaster fled, but the Japanese authorities caused Choe and all the other students who had organized and led the struggle to be expelled from the school.

Later, Choe took part in the March First Popular Uprising and was involved in the work of issuing anti-Japanese publications. He was imprisoned for

some time because of this.

Following this, he went to Seoul and stayed there for some time. There, by chance, he formed a close friendship with a political operative of the Korean Provisional Government in Shanghai. This man induced him to go with him to Shanghai, but there Choe found himself disappointed by the state of affairs at the provisional government. Later he was involved in the communist movement and gained some military experience in the course of the struggle. Nevertheless, instead of helping to recover his nation's sovereignty, which he had intended to do when leaving the homeland, he got more and more involved in the Chinese revolution. In those days the young Koreans active in China proper pinned great hopes on the Chinese revolution.

Recollecting those days, he said: "Although I took pride in making revolution for another country, I somehow could not get rid of the sad feeling of being pushed to the sidelines. Sometimes I tried to rationalize my actions by convincing myself that the Chinese revolution meant the Korean revolution, and vice versa. Nevertheless, I could not help feeling misgivings that I was running away from the situation in the homeland."

When Sun Yat-sen tried to overthrow the Beijing warlord government and establish a people's revolutionary government through the Kuomintang-Communist Cooperation, advocating alliance with the Soviet Union and with the communists, and assistance to the workers and peasants, Choe Yong Gon took an active part in that struggle. He said that he thought that a favourable situation for winning Korea's independence would be created if the people's revolutionary forces succeeded in their expedition to the north and seized Northeast China.

However, things did not turn out as he had expected. After Sun Yat-sen's death, Jiang Jie-shi undermined the Kuomintang-Communist Cooperation, and massacred communists. He did not take nationalities into consideration in suppressing communists, and during this massacre a large number of Koreans were killed in China proper.

At this time, Choe Yong Gon had many close shaves. He fled China proper to northern Manchuria to escape the whirlwind of the bloody massacre. Choe regretted having gone straight to northern Manchuria instead of going to Jiandao at that time and said it was because he had lost his bearings.

"If I had gone to Jiandao, I would have met you, Commander Kim, earlier and have been some help to the Korean revolution. I will always regret it."

I said to him: "I also regret very much my failure to join hands with military experts like you, Choe Yong Gon, earlier. If people like Kim Chaek and you had been in eastern Manchuria, we would have done more work for the Korean revolution. But let bygones be bygones. It is because the hard core like you kindled the flames of the anti-Japanese struggle in northern Manchuria that you were able to revolutionize the Koreans residing there and develop the movement to form the anti-Japanese allied army. The revolutionization of the masses is the fundamental preparation for the Korean revolution. This will also be favourable for the Chinese revolution. Let us not consider the Korean revolution and the Chinese revolution in isolation. As long as we make revolution on Chinese territory, we cannot but attach importance to the joint struggle with the Chinese communists and to the common front with the Chinese anti-Japanese forces. What you have so far done in northern Manchuria is for the good of China's liberation as well as for the sake of Korea's liberation."

Choe Yong Gon said that what had troubled him most until then was loneliness. To my question as to why he had felt lonely, he replied that this was because the enemy was too strong and the future of the revolution seemed too dim. On top of that, as he had lived among Chinese, it was natural that he should have felt lonely. He said that, when he had felt extremely lonely, he had thought of the Korean communists fighting on Mt. Paektu.

Hearing him, I could understand why he had sent his messengers to me four times.

Choe Yong Gon said he had felt great emotion when he was informed of the Ten-Point Programme of the ARF. He said that, having read the programme, he had thought he should go to Mt. Paektu and fight with us if he were to make a greater contribution to the Korean revolution. He added that, if this was impossible, he had made a resolve to strengthen ties with our unit at least.

I told him that I had organized the second expedition to northern Manchuria in 1935 in order to meet our Korean comrades-in-arms in northern Manchuria.

That day Choe Yong Gon and I also talked about how we busied ourselves organizing armed ranks in eastern and northern Manchuria at the beginning of the 1930s.

Choe Yong Gon said that, though he had set up a training centre and organized armed ranks among peasants in northern Manchuria, he had been anxious because the work of increasing the strength of the force was not proceeding as he had intended. Saying that he had heard a long time before that I insisted upon all-people resistance, he asked me to tell him how I intended to mobilize all the people in resistance.

I said to him: "The actual situation of our country is that the majority of the Korean people eagerly desire a revival from their dire straits. If we arm them, we will have a large army amounting to hundreds of thousands. How do we intend to arm them? We intend to form, in various parts of the country, paramilitary organizations that will carry out armed activities while working. Workers' units will be organized in industrial districts, peasants' units in rural areas and students' units in towns and cities. Paramilitary corps and workers' shock brigades were already formed and had begun their activities in the northern areas of Korea in the latter half of the 1930s. We intend to form such organizations in all parts of the country in future. Who will form them? Hard cores that were trained in the anti-Japanese armed struggle will be dispatched to various regions."

I went on, "This is not something which will be realized in the distant future. The general trend of the world is now turning towards the ruin of Japanese imperialism. Although Japan is now carrying on a war against China alone, she may provoke a war on a larger scale sooner or later. Japan's present situation on this one front alone is hopeless. Therefore, if she sparks another war, it will bring about her ruin. The moment of our final showdown will assuredly come in a few years. When that moment comes, we should launch a fight to the death through all-people resistance by rousing all the resistance organizations across the country in cooperation with an all-out offensive of the KPRA, the main force of the Korean revolution. This is my plan for the operations for the liberation of the country and my line of winning independence by our own efforts."

Having listened to me, Choe Yong Gon said that he realized that his view on the people was wrong. He confessed, "Until now, I did not regard the people in the homeland as the people who would carry out the operations to liberate the country, considering them merely as people to be rescued. Only pioneers, not everybody, make revolution. It is true that the workers and peasants are the motive force of the revolution. However, how can all of them make revolution? The pioneers should present the people with a liberated country, shedding their blood. This was my view of the masses up until now. Hence, I attached more importance to military affairs than to political work for the revolutionization of the masses."

As our talk continued, Choe Yong Gon who had looked somber at first, cracked a smile from time to time.

Coming to Khabarovsk, Choe Yong Gon said, he had been interested only in military cooperation with the Soviet Union, and had not given particular thought to arming the entire people of Korea or launching operations to liberate the country. He added that now that he had met me the way he should take was quite clear.

"Commander Kim, to be candid, I have been desirous of fighting on Mt. Paektu. I believe I can discharge my duty as a Korean only when I go there. I don't care what my rank will be there, that of a private or anything else. I only wish to fight under you on Mt. Paektu and be buried there," said Choe Yong Gon tearfully.

"Now that we Korean revolutionaries, who were fighting scattered all over southern, eastern and northern Manchuria, have gathered in one place, let us not disperse any more, but fight for Korea with our hands joined more firmly." This is what I said on leaving Choe Yong Gon's quarters.

I got everlasting impressions from my meeting with Choe Yong Gon. What he said to me in tears expressed his long-cherished desire—to make a direct contribution to the revolution in his own country even when he shared lodgings with the people of another country. What he said also expressed his keen desire to have one central figure and make the revolution by our own efforts, uniting around him.

This wish and desire were not confined to Choe Yong Gon. They were common to all the Korean communists in southern, eastern and northern Manchuria.

The fact that Choe Yong Gon so earnestly desired to fight on Mt. Paektu was the expression of his trust in and expectation from me, as well as the manifestation of his patriotism to make the Korean revolution and die for Korea.

The greater part of Choe Yong Gon's desire was met spontaneously by the organization of the LAF in later days.

*(To be continued)*

***From Chapter 23 "In Alliance With the International Anti-Imperialist Forces," Part 1 "The Anti-Japanese Revolution"***

# The Everlasting Song of the Native Place

In the summer of Juche 54 (1965), President Kim IL Sung was in the middle of giving personal guidance to North Phyon-gan Province, taking measures to improve the living standards of the local people.

One night, the President, who was engrossed in his work, heard the clear sound of a reed coming from somewhere and, listening to it, he went up to the window.

The distant tune was of the "Nostalgia".

He had created the song himself during the days of the bloody battles against the Japanese imperialists. The soldiers of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army would sing the song as they sat around the bonfires at their bivouacs, longing for their native places.

Hearing the song decades later at a peaceful mountain village, the President fell into sentimental recollection.

In the spring of Juche 25 (1936), the KPRA had once stayed in Manjiang.

Looking round the bivouac, the President, charmed by the distant tune of the "Nostalgia", made his way up to the brook from where the tune came.

There he found Kim Jong Suk, a heroine of the anti-Japanese armed struggle, together with other women soldiers, singing the song while doing the washing.

Saying that they, too, must be thinking of their native places, the President said to them, "Those who live away from their homelands must always badly miss their birthplaces. Our Korea is very beautiful at this time." He then talked about his birthplace, Mangyongdae.

Mangyong Hill is covered with red azalea which blooms as the ice melts on the River Taedong and the sap rises in the willow trees. Peach blossoms flower in the yard of his thatched house. Mangyongdae in April, covered with the flowers, is as beautiful as a picture, he said. Then, in a low voice, he sang the song.

*When leaving home, my mother Saw me off at the gate Saying farewell with tearful*

*eyes*

*A farewell still ringing in my*

*ears.*

...

Of those who had followed the President to wage the bloody anti-Japanese armed struggle, some had left the homeland on the backs of their mothers, some had only faint memories of native places they had left in tears, and the others had never stepped on the soil of the homeland, having been born in a foreign land where everything was different from Korea.

The thought of their native places never left their mind. Whenever they looked up at the bright moon as they sat around bonfires, singing the song, they would remember what the President always told them about his native place and feel as if they could see before their eyes their liberated homeland, turned into a people's paradise. The thoughts would confirm their determination to recover the motherland they had been deprived of, and the song became the constant.

The sound of the reed, bringing back the memory of those unforgettable days, continued to be heard every following evening.

It was played by a KPA soldier in the front yard of his barrack. Each time he did so, he was reminded of his own dear home.

The fatherly leader had visited the soldier's well-off farm village, located on the east coast. A clear stream flowed between the village

Anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters singing "Nostalgia", filled with longing for their home villages

# Academy of Forestry

A forceful campaign of afforestation is afoot across Korea. The pivotal role is played by the Academy of Forestry of the Ministry of Land and Environment Preservation.

The academy, located in Anhak-dong in the suburban district of Taesong, Pyongyang, was established on December 29, Juche 38 (1949). It is divided into research institutes of forest management, breeding, preservation, machinery, commercial forestry. Six regional research centers are affiliated with the academy, and several experimental farms and forest reserves are under its control.

The academy is staffed with leading authorities on forestry; many are the holders of advanced academic degrees and titles.

Scientific and technical problems arising in the nursing of saplings, planting, growing and protecting of trees have largely been solved by the academy's researchers.

For the nursing of saplings, they developed effective techniques to grow select species like acacias, Changsong larches, nut pines, and poplars.

The afforestation research project centered on studying reasonable methods of saplings planting, especially on improving the rate of rooting in poor soils.

The programme to create mixed forests turned out to be highly successful, increasing the fertility of the soil and improving the appearance of the chosen sites.

For the cultivation of good forests, they fixed the density rate of each forest according to local conditions and the selected species, while establishing new methods of forest management.

In the field of forest protection, close attention was paid to preventing damage from pine caterpillars, nut pine leaf blights and root-eating worms at nurseries, through biological means.

Efforts were also directed into the manufacture of machinery. They recently produced a new machine for the treatment of seeds, particularly hard-capsuled seeds like those of acacias and nut pines.

The breeding section has also been successful. Excellent new species of trees were recently bred to meet the practical needs of the nationwide campaign to cover the whole country with forest and green landscape. The Rimhung poplar, a new kind of poplar capable of being used as a raw material for fiber and paper production, grows 1.5 times faster than ordinary kinds. New kinds of poplars and willows without fluffy seeds were also invented.

Of particular note in this respect is the intensification of research into acacia, in line with the government policy of planting the species widely. A new fast-growing acacia without thorns was created, and most problems in cultivating the acacia were solved. The newly developed kind of acacia is of great value in transforming the forest soil and creating forests for animal fodder, firewood, timber and ornamental products.

The academy is continuing the work to make the acacia and other good species of trees more resistant to drought, sterile land and blights.

*Ki Yong Sam*

## *Pyongyang Cultural Exchange Center in Trinidad and Tobago*

In November last year, a Pyongyang Cultural Exchange Center was opened in Port-of-Spain, the capital of Trinidad and Tobago.

The center will exhibit and distribute DPRK books, photos and handicrafts, as well as sponsoring lectures, film shows, seminars and other social events in a series of planned events in the capital and other provincial cities.

At the inaugural ceremony, the president of the Art and Industrial Art Products Company of Trinidad and Tobago was elected chief secretary of the center.

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and the trees were loaded with red apples. Etched in the soldier's memory was the school whose playground was surrounded by white poplars, and where the teachers always welcomed their pupils.

Unable to forget his home village, the soldier played the tune of "Nostalgia". It reflected his resolve to defend his socialist motherland. To him, the motherland meant more than his life.

The Koreans still sing the song with the same feeling.

"Nostalgia", the song the first and second generations of the revolution sang, the song that is sung to this day, is the everlasting, patriotic song that will be sung for generations to come.

*Ryu Hui*

# True Meaning of Motherhood

On 11 October last year the family of An Kwang Nam, work-team leader of the Kangso Coal Mine, held a grand wedding ceremony for ten of the children. An's colleagues, neighbours and friends offered hearty congratulations to him and his wife Kim Myong Sun.

Enjoying the happy atmosphere, Myong Sun felt very proud of the children, who had grown up to be reliable workers of the mine, and the children-in-law, fulfilling their youthful potential at the mine. She was vividly reminded of the time when she had been looking after the children.

Ten years before, An had gone to an orphanage to take the bereaved children of his comrade-in-arms to his home. As the children had lost their father and mother in succession because of illnesses, he had decided to adopt them. He unexpectedly found himself taking 18 children in all to his home all at once. He knew there was a social system which supported the orphanages all across the country with all necessary conditions for eating, studying, and living. Nevertheless, he had wanted to add the warmth of family life and kinship to the bereaved children's lives.

Hours passed before the exhilarated children fell asleep, but Myong Sun could not bring herself to do the same. The sight of the 20 children, including the two of her own, caused a surge of anxiety in her mind. Could she, a woman of only 30, manage to support the children?

Despite the difficulties created by the sharp increase in the number of mouths to feed, she had no one but herself to turn to in order to provide for every one. She buckled down to the maintenance of the large family in a daring manner. The land around the house came into cultivation, and pigs, rabbits, chicken, goats and other domestic animals were raised to make the children healthy and strong.

**An Kwang Nam** *(third left)* **instigates another innovation in coal production**

Busy as she was, she was careful to maintain a close relationship with the school in order to help the children in their studies. She encouraged each of them to learn how to play more than one musical instrument. She often mounted hills and mountains to pick wild medicinal herbs from the crags of cliffs, the herbs which were said to be effective in the treatment of the kidney trouble the fourth and sixth children had been suffering from. Nobody knew how many times she fell during her hikes.

The children came to regard her as their real mother, and opened their hearts to her readily.

One day she was informed that the fourth son, Kun Hyok, and the third daughter, Jang Myong, had not gone to school. Her heart sank. She was angry with herself for her loose control of the children as well as with the two. Where had they gone? She was scouring the area when a next door neighbor told her that she had seen them in the morning climbing a mountain carrying a basket with them. Myong Sun ran hastily to the mountain and saw the children climbing down. Filled with anger, she broke a branch from a bush.

"Why didn't you go to school? Where have you been?" she questioned.

Neither of them opened their mouths.

She held up the branch to lash at them, yet could not muster the force to strike them. With a heavy sigh she fell to her knees and put her head in her hands.

"Mother," Kun Hyok said, "today is your birthday, isn't it? You prepare birthday dinners for

us children without fail, but this morning you ate only a bowl of gruel. We have picked some wild vegetables for you."

Myong Sun stood up and hugged the children in her arms, saying, "I did not want you to be dutiful to me alone." She realized that she ought to train the children honest and upright so that they grow to be fine citizens.

Time flew by, and the day came when the eldest son Ra Hyok finished senior middle school. Kim had often hinted that she hoped all the children would work at the local mine. She had thought a lot about the eldest's choice of job.

That evening, when all the family had gathered together, Ra Hyok declared his decision, saying, "Father and mother, I will become a tunneller, like you father; here at the mine.

Casting a proud look over to him, Kim said, "I am going to work at the mine, too, as a battery recharger." This was not an impulsive choice. She thought that she should set an example for the children, who she hoped would all eventually work at the mine.

Following the eldest, the children took jobs at the mine one after another, and three years ago they began to work at the newly developed Joncha Pit. They have fulfilled their yearly targets without fail; when they ran out of props, all of them would make the long journey to the mine' s felling ground; when they could not use coal cars for want of electricity, they carried the coal on their backs.

One day, a tunnel in the pit caved in. Many miners, including the second and third sons, were trapped. People rushed to the mine and succeeded in reaching them within hours. They were shocked to find the miners trapped inside cutting coal by the light of their burning shoe soles.

The children had by now grown up, and Myong Sun had to think of preparation for their marriages. She was happy, yet not without worry. The family's economic situation was difficult, like all others in the country, so she was afraid she could not deal with preparations for the wedding.

But fortune was smiling on Myong Sun. Leader Kim Jong IL, on hearing that ten of An Kwang Nam's children were going to marry at one time, had sent gifts such as wedding clothes, TV sets and even underclothes. Hearing the news from the senior official of the mine, Myong Sun could find no words to express her gratefulness for a while. A stream of tears rolled down her cheeks.

As Myong Sun recalled those eventful ten years, Ra Hyok and his new wife approached her to pour a toast. Ra Hyok said, "Mother, I now realize your intention was to make us coal miners, the eldest sons of the nation. We will support leader Kim Jong IL to the end of the earth, as you have always hoped we would."

As if his words had been a signal, all the new couples came up to surround her. "I will produce more coal and become a worthy daughter of the nation," pledged eldest daughter Tal Myong.

"So will we," the other children said in chorus. Their voices were not so loud, but they echoed high up into the clear sky.

*Ryu Kyong Hui*

**An gives a helping hand to one of his children**

**Harmony reigns supreme in the family**

# February 16 Celebrated as Greatest Holiday

February 16 is the birthday of leader Kim Jong IL. Around the day, all the homes and workplaces in the DPRK and the places inhabited by progressive people around the world, ranging from a small country in the Caribbean through the Eurasian continent to the southern tip of Africa, were overflowing with greetings and music of congratulation for the supreme leader of Korea.
The Koreans and the world progressives celebrated the holiday as their greatest ever, expressing their heart-felt best wishes to Kim Jong IL.

**National and Regional Meetings**

Pyongyang, capital of the DPRK, hosted a national meeting in celebration of the February 16 holiday.
It was attended by members and alternate members of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK), deputies to the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly (SPA), officials of the Party, armed forces and government offices, social organizations, ministries, and other institutions of national authority, along with ordinary Pyongyang citizens. Also present on the occasion were congratulatory groups and delegations of overseas Koreans, distinguished Koreans living abroad, visiting delegations from a number of countries, diplomatic envoys in Pyongyang and other foreign guests.
The meeting adopted a joint congratulatory message to Kim Jong IL from the WPK Central Committee, the WPK Central Military Commission, the DPRK National Defence Commission, the DPRK SPA Presidium, and the DPRK Cabinet. The First Vice-Chairman of the DPRK NDC Jo Myong Rok, director of the General Political Department of the Korean People's Army, read out the message.
Noting that the Korean people were greeting the February holiday as the most important event in the history of the nation, the message said that the WPK Central Committee, the Party Central Military Coin-mission, the DPRK National Defence Commission, the DPRK SPA Presidium and the DPRK Cabinet extended the warmest congratulations to Kim Jong IL, General Secretary of the WPK and supreme commander of the DPRK revolutionary armed forces, reflecting the infinite respect and loyalty of all the Party members, servicemen and other people.
His 60 years have been characterized by his boundless loyalty to President Kim IL Sung and his faithful support of the President's cause. It is a history of outstanding leadership in which he has advanced the revolution and construction with uninterrupted creation; it is a history of true devotion in which he has dedicated his all to the good of the people with absolute trust in them.
From the beginning of his revolutionary career, Kim Jong IL was the greatest comrade of President Kim IL Sung, planning the nation's policies and guiding the Party, government, army and the people together with him, thereby creating a glorious history of carrying forward the Juche revolutionary cause.
The joint message made special note of the fact that his extraordinary qualities as an outstanding statesman had found clearer expression in his achievements during the last decade of the 20th century, a period regarded as the most trying in the history of the Korean revolution. It said, “Kim Jong IL accomplished miracles: He initiated the army-centered politics, which is the most perfect mode of socialist government ever practiced; his revolutionary leadership, based on the army, has been a strong shield of the nation's honor and sovereignty against the worst imperialist moves to isolate and suffocate the DPRK; the revolutionary spirit of soldiers, encouraged by him, inspired the people to complete the 'Arduous March' and created a springboard for the building of a powerful and prosperous nation.”
The text also mentioned his exploits in promoting national reunification and global independence and opening up a new era in international relations.
All the Korean people cherish the honor of making revolution under his leadership and maintain iron-firm unity behind him in order to safeguard Korean-style socialism centered on the masses and achieve rapid progress in the building of a strong and prosperous country, the congratulatory message concluded.
The meeting was then addressed by Kim Yong Nam, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK CC and president of the DPRK SPA Presidium.
He described the animated atmosphere pervading the country as they celebrated their leader's birthday as the most auspicious holiday of the nation. It was because they had Kim Jong IL at the top of the Party, state and army that the Korean revolution had been able to make steady progress without any vacillation in the turmoil of the 20th century, bringing glory to the country; for the same reason, Korea has been making history by building a strong socialist country under the banner of army-centered politics, he pointed out, and added: “The dozens of years he has led the Party, army and the people are the history of a great leader who is also an outstanding thinker, statesman and strategist, a man who has ushered in a new era in the Korean revolution with his profound ideological theories original mode of government and unusual guidance. Those years have been marked by creation and transformation. It was a time when the eternal cornerstone was laid in the

task of completing the Juche revolutionary cause. "
The president of the SPA Presidium said that Kim Jong Ii is experienced in politics, skilled in military strategy, well-informed about the economy and culture and excellent in diplomacy. As long as it is led by him, he declared confidently, Korea will remain steadfast and the Party and the people will emerge victorious. He appealed to the Korean people to follow the WPK faithfully in the effort to make Korea a socialist power that will be able to deal with everything for itself on the strength of the ideological and volitional unity of the entire army and all the people.
Provincial, city and county authorities and units of the KPA's three services held similar meetings.
The meeting places were filled with warm feelings of reverence for Kim Jong IL, who has made an immortal contribution to the Korean revolution and the cause of human independence over his 60 years by dint of his inexhaustible ardour and fighting spirit.

## Kimjongilia Show

As one of the celebrations of the February 16 holiday, the 6th Kimjongilia Show was held in Pyongyang, drawing a large attendance. The show was the result of the deep concern and sincerity of the Korean people and progressives of the world.
Exhibited at the show were 14,300 potted Kimjongilias tended by Koreans and foreigners from China, Russia, Japan and other countries.
At the show, Korean and foreign floriculturists exchanged experience they had gained in cultivating and distributing Kimjongilia. The show served as another occasion for further exchange and cooperation in their work to improve the cultivation of the flower.

## Meeting to Greet Sun of 21st Century

The special session of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Committee for Supporting Korea's Reunification held in Colombia in February last year made an appeal to hold the Meeting to Greet the Sun of the 21st Century at the secret camp on Mt. Paektu, to the enthusiastic applause of those present. Friendship organizations and distinguished individuals in many countries fully supported the appeal through statements, messages and talks.
With the attendance of delegates from international organizations and delegations from several regions and countries, the meeting opened at the secret camp area of Mt. Paektu. A number of significant and colorful events took place at the meeting.
Speakers at the meeting said that looking back upon the 20th century, they extol with revering heart the achievements of the great persons of Mt. Paektu who made a great contribution to creating the path to be followed by mankind and to building an independent and fair new world.
They said that they had watched with great expectation and admiration the enthusiastic political, military and diplomatic activities leader Kim Jong IL made in the last years of the 20th century, in particular, and are convinced that he is the greatest statesman in world politics.
The ceremony adopted the Declaration of Mt. Paektu. It reads:
First, Kim Jong IL is the Sun of the 21st century who will steer the cause of independence of humankind pioneered by President Kim IL Sung to brilliant victory.
We will launch dynamic political and cultural campaigns in praise of the immortal history and exploits of the great persons of Mt. Paektu, singing the "Song of General Kim Jong IL", a hymn to the Sun of humankind. We will set the period from February to April every year as "months to celebrate the Sun of the 21st century" and make a pilgrimage to this place every five years.
Second, the Juche idea developed in depth by Kim Jong IL is the eternal banner leading mankind's cause of independence to victory.
We are convinced that when we study the celebrated works of Kim Jong IL, including **On the Juche Idea,** and apply his ideas to the specific conditions of each country, the 21st century will shine as the era of Kim Jong IL, a century of human respect in which equality between nations, sovereignty and the democratization of the international community are achieved.
Third, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a bulwark of the world's progressives that propels the progress of the cause of global independence.
We will conduct vigorous solidarity activities on a worldwide scale in support of the just cause of the Korean people, who are making a victorious advance, frustrating all challenges of history.
The participants expressed their determination to conduct tangible solidarity campaigns to support the Korean people's cause through grand international forums and meetings, and thus boost support for Korea across the world.

## Various Celebrations

An oath-taking rally took place at the Mt. Paektu secret camp to celebrate February 16. Jo Myong Rok, director of the General Political Department of the Korean People's Army, led the oath, which reflected the faith and will of the KPA servicemen and the people. Toward the end of the rally, a dazzling display of fireworks lit up the sky over Jong IL Peak.
A national seminar and a number of workshops were held in different sectors on the theme of the greatness of Kim Jong IL.
Other cultural highlights included fine art exhibitions, photo shows, a book exhibition, an oratorical meeting, a film show, the 11th Paektusan Prize International Figure-Skating Festival, a rally of 50,000 students, and the joint national meeting of the Korean Children's Union.

Performances were given at theatres in Pyongyang and provinces, as well as a number of other establishments across the country and KPA units.
Various colorful events and a mass gymnastics display also took place.
The celebratory atmosphere was heightened by the presence of overseas Koreans who came to Pyongyang with songs and dances, and the television broadcast of a special computer-produced video from south Korea which extolled the greatness of Kim Jong IL.

## Outside Korea

Many countries held major functions to celebrate Kim Jong IL's birthday.
Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, president of the Council of the State of Cuba and president of the Council of Ministers of Cuba, sent a congratulatory message to Kim Jong IL, and state and party leaders of many countries sent congratulatory telegrams and letters.
Vladimir Putin, president of the Russian Federation, sent a personal letter of congratulation, in which he heartily congratulated Kim Jong IL on his birthday and wished him a long life and good health. The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, party and state leaders of various countries, including the Palestinian President and the President of the People's Democratic Republic of Laos, sent floral baskets to him. Figures from political and public circles presented gifts to him.
The Syrian defence minister sent a gift of the "sword of the Syrian army and armed forces" for Kim Jong IL to the Korean embassy in Syria.
In honour of his birthday, a symbolic government emblem and diploma of Karachi City of Pakistan were conferred on the Korean leader. The deputy mayor delivered them to the Korean ambassador to Pakistan.
On the emblem are engraved the words "To great leader Your Excellency Kim Jong IL, on the occasion of your birthday, the happiest national holiday of the Korean people".
The diploma reads, "It is a great honour to the Karachi government of Pakistan to present the symbolic government emblem of Karachi to you, in high praise of your immortal achievements in your efforts for the reunification of Korea, world peace and the cause of human independence."
Kim Jong IL received the titles of Honorary Academician and Doctor from the International Information Technology Academy, an Honorary Doctor and relevant attire from the Mongolian Institute for Oriental Philosophy and Human Studies, Peace Order of Gold Star and its diploma from the Federation of Peace and Friendship Organizations of Mongolia, commemorative medals from the friendship associations of France and Bulgaria, and a badge of honor and diploma from Palavecino City of Lara, Venezuela.
Early last year, at a special session of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Committee for Supporting Korea's Reunification, a preparatory committee for the celebration of the February 16 holiday of 2002 was formed, followed by the foundation of many such committees around the world.
Over 60 preparatory committees in around 50 countries, such as the Swiss Preparatory Committee for the Celebration of February 16, 2002, the Syrian Preparatory Committee for the Celebration of the Day of the Sun and February 16 of 2002, the Pakistani National Preparatory Committee, the Libyan Preparatory Committee, the Bulgarian Preparatory Committee, the Romanian Preparatory Committee and the Jordanian Preparatory Committee, were formed to ensure the holiday was celebrated in style.
The committees established the celebration period and hosted various events, such as assemblies, performances, get-togethers, seminars, lectures, photo exhibitions and film shows.
The State Academy Ensemble of the Russian Interior Ministry visited the DPRK embassy in Moscow to stage a celebratory performance.
Deputies to the State Duma of Russia, including its deputy speaker, who is also the chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party, officials of the foreign, culture, education and other ministries, and leaders of political parties and public organizations saw the performance.
Notable highlights of the performance were the immortal revolutionary paeans "Song of General Kim IL Sung" and "Song of General Kim Jong IL" in chorus, "Kalinka" in chorus and solo, "Battle of Justice" in chorus and "General of Korea" in chorus.
At a commemorative meeting held in Basel, Switzerland, the chairman of the Swiss Committee for the Support of Korea's Reunification said, "The great leader His Excellency Kim Jong IL further developed the immortal Juche idea fathered by President Kim IL Sung, and defended Korean socialism from the imperialists' maneuvers to isolate and stifle it with his army-centered policy. He is wisely leading the efforts to build a socialist power. For this he is highly praised as the Sun of the 21st century.
"Korea's friends across the world are expressing their deep respect to him, celebrating his birthday as the common holiday of humanity."
Special issues of bulletins were published and mass media carried special programmes in many countries.
The Association for Peru-DPRK Friendship and Culture published a special bulletin under the headlines "Congratulations on the birthday of the WPK General Secretary Kim Jong IL" and "Kim Jong IL's courage".
A Thai newspaper Sing Siam Yit Pao featured a photograph of Kim Jong IL in a full-page article titled "Leader Kim Jong IL's political philosophy-comradeship".

# Significant celebration of February 16, the greatest national holiday of Korea

Fireworks over Jong Il Peak.

The Meeting to Greet the Sun of the 21st Century is opened at the secret camp on Mt. Paektu amid intense public interest.

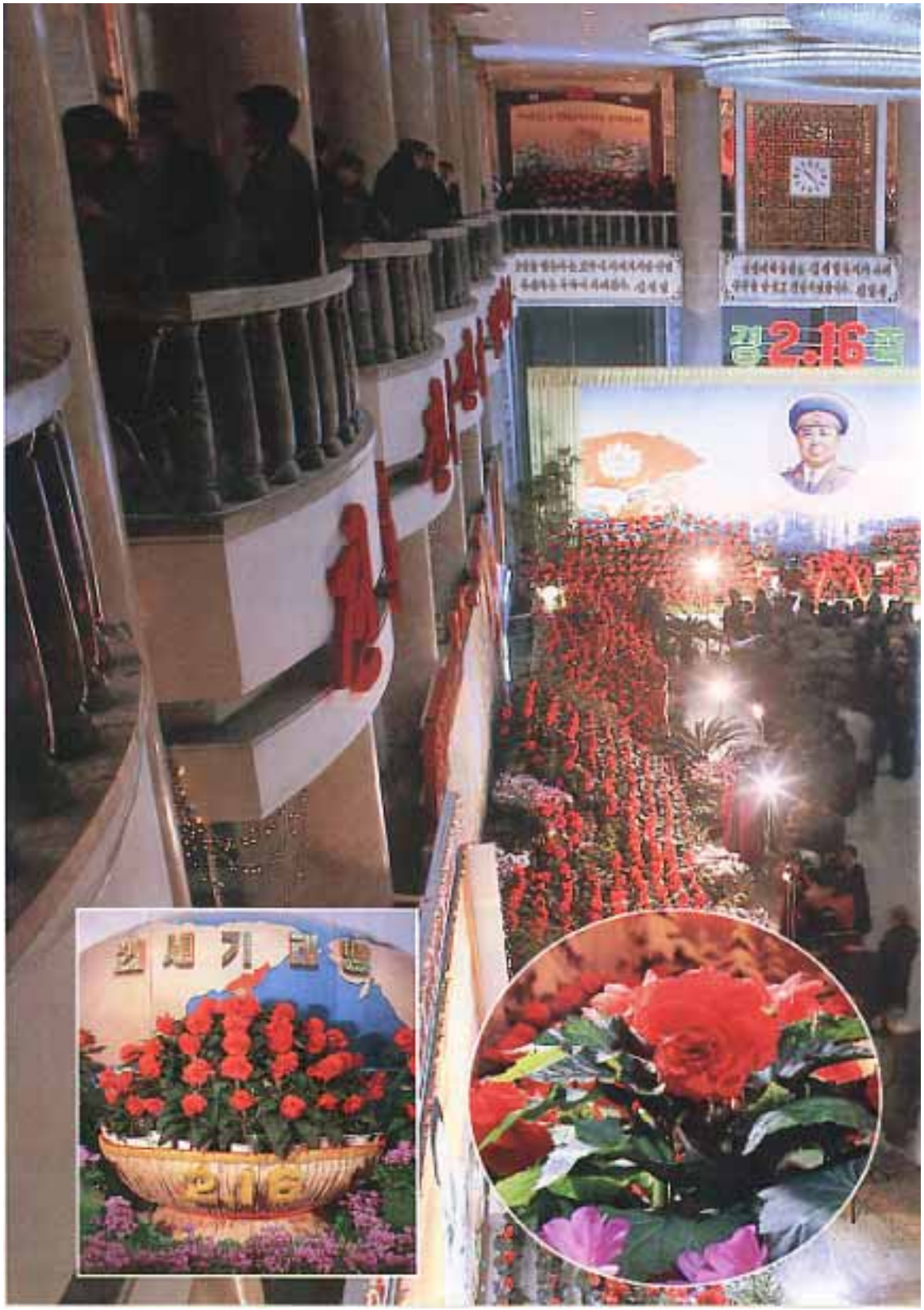
National meeting to celebrate February 16, the birthday of Kim Jong Il.

National Book Exhibition.

The Meeting to Greet the Sun of the 21st Century photo exhibition on the subject of sunrise at Mt. Paektu, the sacred mountain of revolution.

February 16 National Fine Art Exhibition of the Pyongyang Fine Art Festival.

Scenes from the mass gymnastics display "Under the Banner of Army-Centred Policy".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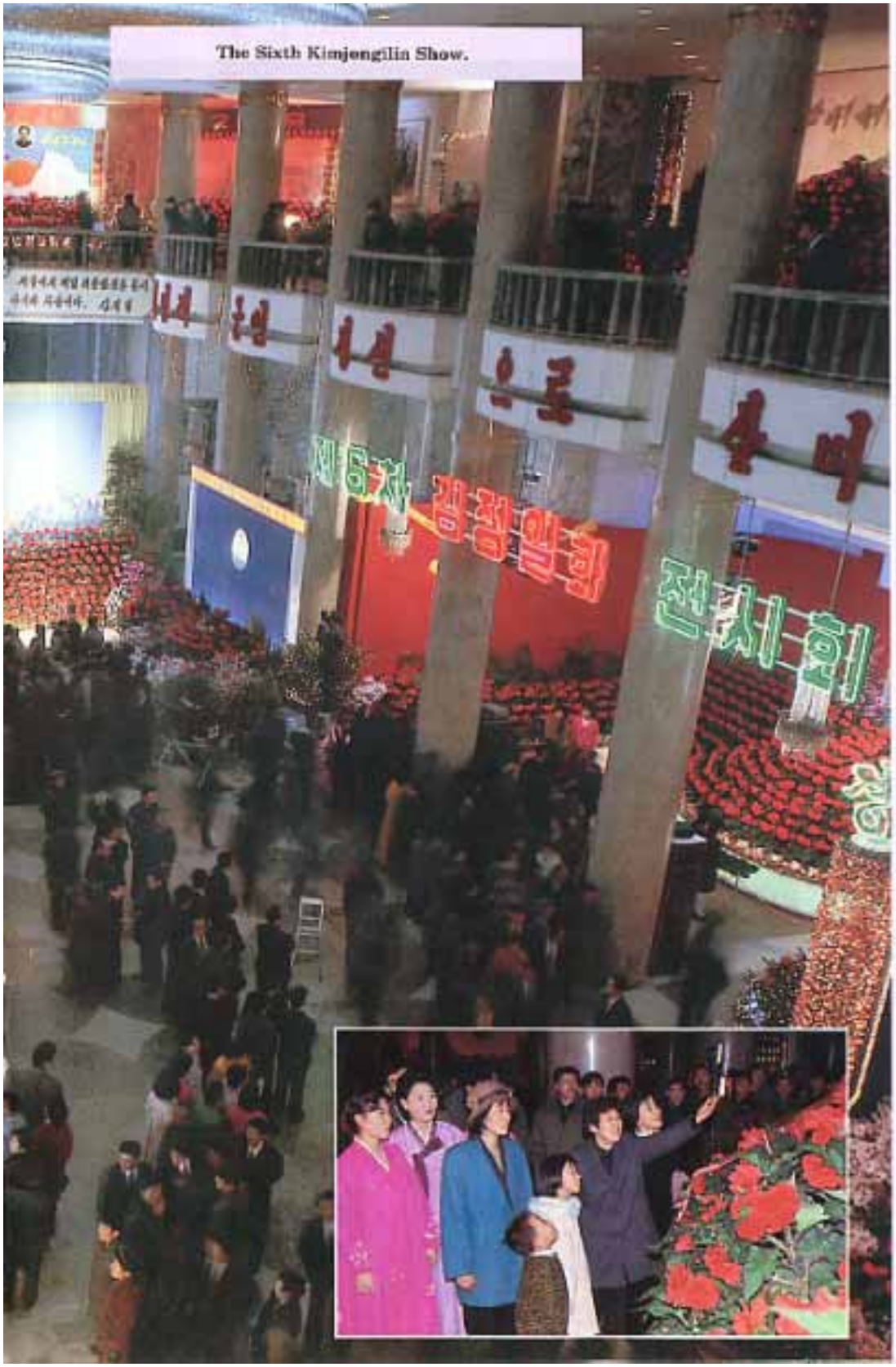
The Sixth Kimjongilin Show.



The joint national meeting of the Korean Children's Union.

Scenes from the performance given by the children at the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace.

A scene from the celebratory performance by the artistes of Pyongyang.

With profound feelings of best wishes.

The Meeting to Greet the Sun of the 21st Century international forum and friendship gathering take place in Pyongyang.

The 11th Paektusan Prize International Figure-Skating Festival.

Scenes from the synchronized swimming performance.

# *Glory to Leader Kim Jong IL*

Greeting the February holiday, I visited the Democratic People's Republic of Korea again. The days I spent in Korea were the most significant of my life.

I came to be acquainted with the DPRK long ago.

In Russia, there are publishing houses, which issue the works authored by Kim Jong IL, and there are also many publications brought out by the Foreign Languages Publishing House of the DPRK, which greatly help me in my work and life.

Members of parliament, distinguished public figures and other Russians need these books as urgently as air.

The working people of Russia fully understand that socialism is the greatest political philosophy in the world, and are briskly conducting the movement to rebuild socialism in their country.

Kim Jong IL's works serve as a torchlight in that effort.

They are united in believing that Kim Jong IL is the only man who can steer the global socialist movement.

The Russian people's feelings of reverence for him are now mounting ever higher.

During his visit to Russia last year, the people welcomed him warmly at every street and every railway station he passed.

They gathered to view the news of his visit to Russia on television, remaining together long afterwards, revealing their excited feelings.

Of great note to the Russian people is that he visited Lenin's Mausoleum to lay a wreath, something that fascinated them.

The image of Kim Jong IL, the only head of state to have visited the mausoleum of the former leader to pay tribute, is now vivid in the hearts of the Russian people.

He is the supreme personifier of ideas, theories, leadership ability, mental power and virtue.

On the birthday of leader Kim Jong IL, the Sun of the 21st century, I extend the greatest glory to him in humble reverence.

***Alexandr Brejunev***

**Professor, Member of the Writers' Union of Russia**

# The E-Mail Address "Juche"

I have been devoting my whole life to the law, true to the belief that it can help rule out the evils of society.

The collapse of socialism in the East European countries in the early 90s of the last century took a great toll in world political history. All over the world people lost confidence in socialism and ceased aspiring for the freedom and equality that only socialism can bring.

The international reactionary forces headed by US imperialism crowed that Korea too would soon collapse, in their hasty attempt to declare that socialism was dead.

Would Korea be able to defend its socialism? This became a worry all over the whole world.

At this critical moment, Juche Korea held up the banner of socialism all the higher.

His Excellency Kim Jong IL published his historic work **"Socialism Is A Science"** proving the inevitable revival of socialism and victory of socialist cause.

The unrivaled political ability of His Excellency Kim Jong IL has enhanced the international clignity and prestige of Korea to its highest level.

Indeed, the people-centered socialism of Korea, the embodiment of the Juche idea, is the beacon of our hope.

Therefore, the Society for Friendship with Korea has

named its e-mail address *Juche* close to their hearts.

***Ella Rule*, Secretary of the British Society for Friendship with Korea**

*Men of Strong Faith*

# "I Have Seen the Source of Our Might"

**On Mt. Myohyang**

The unforgettable memory of the warm welcome is still vividly engraved in my mind received at Thongil House, Panmunjom, in September Juche 89 (2000); the sea of flowers of the beloved people of the north of Korea, the warm embrace of the leading officials of the state, and the flood of tears.

That day I realized once again that we, former unconverted long-term prisoners, were never lonely in the prison of south Korea.

The staunch support of the kinsmen-like people became our mental sustenance and the source of our will, allowing us to resolutely fight against the enemy, never compromising our revolutionary integrity and fidelity.

Though our bodies were severely damaged on that thorny path, our love for humanity never diminished.

The physical suffering we experienced beyond human imagination, the innumerable winter nights spent awake in a cold prison cell, the moments of loneliness that were enough to stifle the thinking faculties of human being a hundred times over, and the heartbreaking last moments of comrades-in-arms...

Overcoming the pain of these experiences is not as easy as one might imagine.

A Western writer wrote that if a human being is deprived of elementary living conditions, he becomes a beast. His point was that man can be reasonable only under the normal conditions.

But our morality was never twisted even under decades of the worst conditions.

We are proud to think that we made our lives more beautiful.

So what was the source of that surprising force?

I can read it in the clear eyes of the children. It was a love for the future.

How long we waited for this day where we can embrace the children and look into their eyes.

We are also human beings. We too wanted to live with our parents, like others, and start a happy family with wife and children.

As I have started a happy family in the warm embrace of leader Kim Jong IL, I miss my mother more than ever before. As I did in my childhood when I played without trousers, I want to tell my mother everything, clinging to the edge of her skirt. I want to tell her about the love which led me to the top seat of a welcoming ceremony and called me to a grand party. How happy I would be if I could show her the shining medal of the National Reunification Prize on my breast, and live with her in my palace-like house even for a day.

If my mother could see me now, standing at the peak of glory and happiness among the congratulation of hundreds of people with a smile while crying, she would be moved to tears with happiness even in her grave.

Now I lead a happy life as in a dream, becoming excited with a great emotion.

As I suffered a number of illnesses in prison, I was like the disabled when I crossed the demarcation line. But my heart is now beating as it did in my youth, and my mind is burning with youthful ardour.

I recovered the youth which had passed away behind the high walls of the prison, and went on a honeymoon to the places of scenic beauty like Mt. Myohyang and Mt. Kuwol, under the warm care of the state.

The feeling I had when I climbed the sacred mountain of the revolution, Mt. Paektu, and shouted with joy at the top of my voice as I looked down at the 3,000-ri territory of our motherland, couldn't be compared to anything else.

At that time, I felt strong enough to break down a mountain.

Looking around the historical relics preserved at the secret camp of Mt. Paektu, where leader Kim Jong IL was born, also left a great impression on me.

The guide told us the story of the thin quilt in the corner of the log-cabin, which was made of cotton from the women guerrillas' military uniforms.

*Men of Strong Faith*

# *Greeting Women's Day*

This month sees the second Inter national Women's Day since I returned to the north of Korea.

I sometimes turn my thoughts to my wife, who cares for me with all sincerity lest I might catch even a cold, prepares food pleasant to my taste, and repeats her words that a tonic is at the bottom of the bowl whenever we are at the table.

How can I give happiness to her, my "nurse", my "companion" and my "protector""?

As if reading my mind, blossoms burst into full bloom in the more than 20 flowerpots I tend with care.

On the holiday morning this year, I said, giving a fragrant red garden zinnia to her, "My dear, I wish you to remain as beautiful as this flower," and she thanked me with a smile.

I saw my mother's face in hers.

In the days of the Japanese colonial rule, she lost her husband at the age of 19 and had much trouble to bring up this posthumous son.

When young, I envied the other children going to school.

One day, I again asked her to send me to school. Ignorant of my words, my mother, with a hoe in her hand, cast her eyes over a distant mountain and hastened me to finish the weeding before sunset.

That night, having fallen into deep sleep, I was awakened by something falling on my face. I half-opened my eyes and found my mother weeping beside me, stroking my hand, worn by years of hard work in so early years.

After that, I never again asked my mother to send me to school.

I left home at the age of 16, for I could no longer suppress my desire to learn in a big town by working my way through school. Nevertheless, it was a dream of a mere unaware child.

It was only after the liberation of Korea (August 1945) that I could learn how to read and write my mother tongue and gain access to university.

It was two decades later that I was reunited with my mother in a south Korean prison, the mother who had given her blessing to my departure, making a suit for me all night with the material from her only black skirt. She had asked me to become a great man with high honours, following me far out of the village as she waved good-bye.

My mother, over 70 at the time, failed to recognize me though I was standing in front of her with iron bars in between, only calling "Oh, Rin Su, where are you, my son?" "Mother, it's me", I said, making a deep bow to her.

"Are you really my son?" with this murmur, she collapsed, unconscious, and was carried out by stretcher.

I later learned that she died unconscious, and I resolved bitterly that I would remain faithful to the oath I made for national reunification, and would never stop fighting to bring earlier the day when all the south Korean women enjoy social privilege, respect and love, being regarded as flowers of the country as the north Korean women are.

**Together with his wife**

I who have lived in the embrace of the north for two years am now singing the song of youth with my wife at this advanced age.

I once again make a resolution to dedicate all my energy to the cause of national reunification to save the south Korean women who are suffering under the boot of the US forces.

***Sin Rin Su,***
***Former unconverted long-term prisoner***

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The explanation moved me to tears.

Looking at it, I thought of the venerable image of leader Kim Jong IL, who, in simple dress, makes constant tours of the country to give first-hand guidance for the happiness of the people.

The single-hearted unity of our society, where the leader, soldiers and people share their fate on the road of revolution, is vividly represented by the quilt in the log-cabin.

That unity of the leader, Party and the masses is the source of limitless power which can not be broken even by an atomic bomb.

Visiting several places of the northern half of Korea, I came to realise that the entire population is vigorously advancing the building of a powerful socialist nation and the reunification of the motherland, under the wise leadership of leader Kim Jong IL.

Our single-hearted unity is that of the army and people around leader Kim Jong IL with one thought and will.

There is no force in the world that can conquer this power.

***Ri Sye Gyun***
***Former unconverted long-term prisoner***

# Pongdo Revolutionary Site

Pongdo-ri in the suburban district of Sungho, Pyongyang, is a historic place visited many times by Kim Hyong Jik, an indomitable revolutionary fighter, both before and after his formation of the Korean National Association on March 23, 1917.

It was with a reverential sense of awe that I visited this revolutionary site.

Kim Hyong Jik visited this small farm village, located by a road running zigzag across a hill, to inspire the people with patriotism. For that reason, every tree and every blade of grass here seemed to speak of their importance.

A revolutionary monument stands before the green trees. The monument records the fact that Kim Hyong Jik visited Pongdo-ri many times between Juche 5 (1916) and Juche 8 (1919) to form the Songo branch of the KNA and conduct revolutionary activities. It also tells us that in the spring of Juche 6 (1917), President Kim IL Sung visited the village with his mother, Kang Pan Sok, and his younger brother, Kim Chol Ju.

The revolutionary site preserves the Sungdok School and the detached building used for a drawing room, garret and ferry of the Sonchang house as they were at that time. The detached building of the house was a low-eaved thatched building of the kind formerly seen everywhere in the Korean countryside. Its matted room contains a low desk, an ink-stone and an oil lamp used by Kim Hyong Jik, and a scroll bearing the words "Aim High" hangs on a wall.

Standing in the room, I recalled what Kim Hyong Jik had said at the inaugural meeting of the Songo branch of the KNA in this house in April Juche 6 (1917): "The goal of the Korean National Association is for the Korean nation to achieve national independence for itself, united as one. To attain that goal, all Koreans desirous of national independence must unite around the Korean National Association."

In the autumn of that year he visited Pongdo-ri again and, chairing the meeting of the Songo branch, stressed the need to work hard to recruit new comrades, form a secret organization with hot-blooded young people, and prepare them to participate in an armed independence movement in the future.

Looking round the Sungdok School I could understand the deep meaning of his saying "Aim High".

It was at this school that he said to a champion of independence, "Korean independence cannot be won today or tomorrow. It is a hard task we must fulfil without fail in our generation or in that of our children. We must therefore build a school and train children to become the mainstay of the country."

The bell still hangs in the school playground, and the physical exercise apparatus also stands as it was. I seemed to hear the Sungdok School song written and composed by Kim Hyong Jik to inspire the children.

In the grim days of national ruin, when Koreans were forced to submit to Japanese imperialists or die, Kim Hyong Jik had confidence in the future thanks to his noble idea of “Aim High”.

That confidence stemmed from his belief that if the Korean nation closely united and fought its enemies, it could bring about a bright future for itself.

After leaving the revolutionary site I looked down over Pongdo-ri from Mt. Murang.

The fields were alive with farming preparations, and long irrigation canals stretched alongside them. The clear waters of the River Taedong skirted the fields in front of the cozy village, where modern houses stood in rows. Everything Kim Hyong Jik pictured during those grim days has now come true.

*Ryu Kong Hui*

**Working people visiting the Pongdo revolutionary site.**

# Sibling Officers

One February day three years ago, seven officers sat together looking up at the flashing stars of the far night sky through the window.

The officers were six brothers and a sister born and raised in the family of war veteran, Kim Yun Gon, in Sinam-ri, Ryongchon County, North Phyongan Province.

Their father, a participant in the Fatherland Liberation War (June 1950-July 1953), always said to them:

"There is no motherland without the leader. You must never forget this principle, and support the respected Supreme Commander Kim Jong IL with loyalty and safeguard him with your lives."

This left a deep impression on all of them, and with that firm conviction they all joined the army when they reached adulthood.

They were filled with a firm resolve not to put down their rifles to the end of their lives.

During the difficult times the country experienced in the 1990s, when the imperialists raved about the DPRK's so-called "nuclear issue", viciously manoeuvring to isolate and stifle it, the seven grasped their rifles more firmly than ever.

The eldest brother was moved to write letters to his younger brothers and sister.

"I feel more keenly that it is because we are led by the Supreme Commander that we can be alive and our socialist motherland continues to exist in this grim period.

"If not him, who will defend the motherland and people in such a difficult situation, and who will build a powerful nation?

"Like planets around the sun, we should become seven stars defending the General with our lives. I intend to send a letter pledging our loyalty to the respected Supreme Commander."

All of the younger siblings agreed with his plan, and so they gathered together that February day. After sending the letter, they made firm resolve to become rifles and bombs defending the Supreme Commander with their lives.

With the resolve they made that day still strong in their hearts, they are faithfully carrying out their military duties in their respective units.

## Discharged soldiers develop new careers

Thanks to measures taken by the state, 1,200 discharged soldiers in Taehongdan County, Ryanggang Province have been studying under the study-while-working education system since May Juche 88 (1999).

In order to train the former soldiers as engineers, the county authorities have joined forces with Hyesan Agricultural and Forestry University.

A special department for potato farming in Taehongdan County was established to provide courses on agricultural science, farming machinery, and animal husbandry.

Because of the long distance between the farms and the university, a correspondence study team was formed in Taehongdan County, and the university also organized a number of lectures in the county by qualified instructors.

Eventually all the discharged soldiers will become engineers capable of contributing to the county's potato farming effort.

## The 2nd Asian Youth Judo Championships Held

The Second Asian Youth Judo Championships were held in Vietnam in November last year.

The competition drew some 160 competitors from 20 nations and regions, and Korean judoists achieved good results.

Three Koreans took gold medals: Kim Kyong Jin in the men's 55kg category and Kim

Song Gum and Kim Ran Hui in the women's 45 and 52 kg categories respectively.

Hong Chol Ui won the bronze medal in the men's 73 kg division and Pak Ok Song, Choe Hyon Ju, Kim Un Jong and Kim Ryon Mi, all women, took the same position in the women s 43, 57, 63 and 70 kg categories.

# Phibada Opera Troupe

In July last year the Phibada Opera Troupe celebrated its 30th birthday.

The history of the troupe is closely linked with the revolutionary opera "Phibada" (Sea of Blood), for it came into being with the first public performance of this opera.

"Sea of Blood" is a classic work which brings home to everyone the lesson and truth that all should turn out in the struggle to put an end to the history full of tribulations and that revolution is what gives life meaning.

"Sea of Blood" was created in the 1930s, the period of the anti-Japanese armed struggle.

It was premiered as a play on a small, makeshift stage at Manjiang, China, in Juche 25 (1936).

Through the depiction of Ul Nam's mother, the leading character, it conveys the message that the true revolution is not one carried out only by those of extraordinary ability but one which anyone can make if he turns out in the struggle with a determination. Its impact has been such that many people have set out on the road of revolution as a result of seeing it.

The work of turning "Sea of Blood" into an opera was undertaken on a full scale in Juche 60 (1971).

Formerly aria and recitative, the main elements of opera in Europe, had been regarded essential to the creation of operas.

However, under the guidance of leader Kim Jong IL, this old pattern was done away with and operas of a Korean style which were new in content and form have been created, operas which consist of songs arranged in verses combined with *pangchang* (a form of song sung by the actors off-stage) and dance and in which automated three-dimensional stage techniques are introduced.

The creation of the revolutionary opera "Sea of Blood" shook the world, a cannonade announcing the appearance of a new type of opera.

It has been staged on over 1,500 occasions so far, and it continues to be performed to this day.

It exerts great influence on the audience. Through its performance, audiences see the mother of Ul Nam in the 1930s and renew their determination to continue the revolution to the last.

The troupe is divided into various departments, including those for literary and artistic creation, opera, dance, orchestral music and stage setting. It has the material and intellectual resources required for the creation and performance of opera and other forms of theatre.

The folk dance suite 'Song of the Seasons", the dance suite "Song of Army and People", the legendary dance drama "Touch-me-not" are among the many works loved by the public which have been created by the writers, composers and artists of the Phibada Troupe.

Its performances are not restricted to the stage, for they also perform at busy socialist construction sites. Performances have even been given abroad.

The troupe has so far given more than 720 performances of the revolutionary opera "Sea of Blood" and other theatrical works of art on 49 separate visits to over 30 countries, including Russia, China, France and Cuba.

Over the years the troupe has produced three Kim IL Sung Prize winners and many Labor Heroes, People's Artists, People's Actors. Actress Jo Chong Mi won a prize in an international competition.

The troupe was awarded the Order of Kim IL Sung and has received thanks and congratulatory letters from leader Kim Jong IL on dozens of occasions.

The ranks of performers are constantly being replenished with young talented graduates of Pyongyang University of Music and Dance and talented artists necessary for opera creation selected from various parts of the country.

The concern and expectation of the state for the opera troupe are great.

In October last year leader Kim Jong Il saw a performance of "Sea of Blood" given by the troupe and expressed great satisfaction.

# A Life

RESEARCHER Kim Myong Je, 74, of the Information Communications Institute, part of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, is one of the Korean intellectuals who have contributed to the building of a powerful nation with science and technology. Kim has played an important role in the modernization of the country's communications networks through the researches he has carried out while working at the institute over the past 46 years.

### *Enjoying the Trust of the State*

One day in June Juche 53 (1964), a friend from the same village visited Kim and said, " I have come to congratulate you on receiving the Master's degree. I am delighted for you..." The friend's congratulations excited Kim. He spent the day looking back on his past, unable to sleep until late at night.

Under Japanese imperialist colonial rule, Kim's parents had worked tirelessly as slash-and-burn farmers to send him, their youngest son, to school. He later worked as a railwayman and then as a teacher after national liberation in August 1945. In Juche 37 (1948) he entered Kim Chaek University of Technology (Pyongyang University of Technology at the time) and spent his first vacation at his home village. The whole village warmly greeted him on his return, enviously eyeing his university uniform.

With the outbreak of the Korean War (1950-1953), started by the US imperialists, Kim laid down his pen and took up the rifle in order to fight the aggressors. He participated in the battle to defend Seoul and other battles. At the order of the Supreme Commander, he was recalled from the front in order to continue his studies. On June 17, Juche 41 (1952) he heard the

# Dedicated to Communications

happy news of President Kim IL Sung's visit to his university. The President had said that his visit to the university did not brook a moment's delay for postwar reconstruction. The words moved Kim to make a new resolution. He pledged to support the country for life with science and technology.

After graduation from the university with the highest honors, Kim began his work at an institute in Juche 45 (1956). At the time, the institute had the task of expanding the cable broadcast network across the country. But the critical shortage of permanent magnet was a major problem. Kim was determined to solve this problem. He went to the Pyongyang Communications Equipment Factory and manufactured experimental apparatus by himself while carrying out his research. He finally succeeded in producing ferrite much better than the previous magnetic substance. At the time, only a handful of countries had the technology to make it.

**Kim Myong Je giving technical assistance to his researchers.**

Not content with this breakthrough, he developed his research aggressively. In the course of this, he produced an LC filter by using ferrite, an important piece of equipment that greatly increased the capacity of the country's telephone network. For this he received the Master's degree in Juche 53 (1964).

Whenever he achieved success in his research, no one was happier than his mother. When he visited his hometown on leave after being awarded his degree, his mother said, "You could not have even imagined this when you were younger. You must always remember the benevolence of the state that trained you as a fine scientist."

In times of difficulty, Kim gained courage and strength from his mother's encouragement.

### *With Faith and Conscience*

In the mid1970s, Kim made up his mind to produce an electronic phone switchboard and began his research. Some people shook their heads, saying even developed countries were still unable to make it. But he had made his decision, and he braced himself for the task ahead.

One day, a researcher visited Kim, advising him, “You’re old now. You shouldn’t try to do too many things. You've already made magnetic material. Why not deepen your research on that material and write a thesis for your doctorate?" Kim replied bluntly, "It's very kind of you, but someone else must do that research instead of me."

He carried out his research as planned.

On Sundays or national holidays he went to libraries and devoured scientific and technical books, and had earnest discussions with other researchers. As a result, one year after he had begun his work the first trial product was produced.

President Kim IL Sung saw the prototype and praised the scientists for it.

When the institute had the task of producing a high-capacity electronic switchboard, Kim assembled it with the technicians.

Thanks to such efforts a fine switchboard was created.

Kim wrote the paper "Study of the Introduction and Operation of High-capacity Electronic Phone Switchboard", and received a doctorate in Juche 85 (1996).

He also greatly contributed to the establishment of a national telegram automatic relay system which helped to save on labor, equipment and materials, and was involved in the building of a production base for the institute.

While conducting his research, he had written over 20 textbooks and reference books on electronic engineering, electronic switchboards, fiber-optic communications and other related subjects, as well as more than 30 papers. Scores of students have been trained by him to be Masters of Science over the years.

Staff at the institute praise Kim Myong Je as a "treasure in communications". The title summarizes his life.

# Talented Young Guitarist

In October last year a national vocal, instrumental, and dance solo contest for schoolchildren was held in Pyongyang in front of a large audience. Among the contestants was a schoolgirl whose skillful performance met with thunderous applause. She was Song Hye Ryon, a fifth-year pupil at Pyongyang Taehung Senior Middle School.

At that time, Song was 14 years old. Her ability was such that she seemed to open up a musical world as she skillfully and passionately strummed on her guitar.

Her performance was enough to touch the heart of everyone who saw it. Not surprisingly, letters poured in to her school and her home, and even today she has a steady stream of visitors.

Song was born the second daughter of an ordinary couple in Pyongyang. She began to learn to play the guitar when she was a first-year pupil at senior middle school.

From an early age she had often heard the sound of the guitar played by her father, an artist. This gradually aroused a curiosity for the instrument.

While working hard at her school studies, she set about learning the rudiments of the guitar in her free time, under the guidance of her music teacher and her father.

It was when she was a third-year pupil that she truly began to display her musical talent.

One day, a woman teacher who was making preparations for the music circle under her charge received a visit from a girl she hadn't seen before. The girl was third-year pupil Song Hye Ryon, a newcomer to the school.

"Teacher, I have come here to learn how to play the guitar," said Song.

Contrary to her quiet-looking appearance, her behavior was bold. The teacher got the impression that she had a genuine interest in music. She was not mistaken.

After tutoring Song for some time, the teacher realized that her musical sense was several times keener than that of other pupils.

The school set itself the goal of fostering and developing Song's musical talent, and saw to it that she carried out her daily assiguments without fail. In addition, it ensured that sessions to allow the joint review of her performance were organized frequently to enable her to be aware of her strength and weaknesses.

Every day she devoted herself entirely to attaining proficiency in playing the guitar.

One evening she staggered into bed after returning home. As her temperature rose and she felt sharp pain all over her body, all she wanted to do was lie still on the bed. But the next moment it occurred to her that she had not yet mastered a particular playing method, although she herself had planned to become proficient in it that day. She took some medicine and then set about practicing. Her room began to ring with the sound of the guitar.

Finding her sick daughter out of bed, Song's mother told her to practice on the guitar after she had recovered.

Song replied, "Mom, don't worry yourself about me. To me time is the key to success."

Nothing could dampen Song's ebullient enthusiasm.

That night she practiced on the guitar until daybreak, despite

feeling under the weather. Her persistence paid off, as she became thoroughly proficient in the special playing method that even the experts regard as difficult to acquire.

Her skill on the guitar progressed day by day, reaching a level high enough to fill even acknowledged experts with admiration.

As a result, she took first place in the guitar solo at the national vocal, instrumental, and dance solo contest for schoolchildren in Juche 89 (2000) and again last year.

Not content with this success, she made up her mind to arrange pieces of music for the guitar.

Her ambition enjoyed the support of teachers at her school and her family.

But musical arrangement proved a much tougher nut to crack, because it made it necessary to create melodies exciting musical interest and to combine a variety of harmonies with a playing style which successfully conveyed the motifs of the pieces. She also had to show the ideological and emotional contents of every musical piece more deeply and profoundly in reliance upon the basic melody.

# Cheerful Children

In Korea, children are the "King" of the country.

From the age of 5 to 6, they receive pre-school education at the kindergartens in their local areas. Pyongyang Okryu No. 2 Kindergarten, situated on Munsu Street in the eastern part of Pyongyang, the capital of DPRK, is one of them.

The three-storied, attractive kindergarten with a floor space of about 1,560m2 is attended by more than 300 children.

In junior class, the children are taught about the childhoods of the three generals (President Kim IL Sung, Kim Jong Suk and leader Kim Jong IL ), as well as songs, dance, and sports.

In senior class, adding to the teaching in the junior class, they learn their mother-tongue, numbers, drawing, manners and public morality.

The kindergarten teachers put their efforts into the education of tune listening of the children. From the first thing in the morning to the end of the school day, every lesson, game, and activity is done to the sond of music. “ This plays an important role in preventing the children from becoming bored and gives them pleasure in their everyday lives,” said the head of the kindergarten.

The teachers continuously consider how to bring up the children to be healthy and cheerful.

There is a Korean saying, "What is learned in the cradle is carried to the tomb.” So the teachers endeavor to teach them good habits from childhood. And, using the heuristic method, they educate the children using videos and make educational materials appropriate to their development and psychology.

The teachers won the first and special prizes in nationwide competitions for the quality of the materials they had produced. They also do as much as possible to increase their own abilities, regularly studying new education methods in order to gear their lessons to present needs.

Due to their efforts, the children of the kindergarten get excellent results in intellect-developing and counting competitions which are held every year.

Okryu No.2 is also well-known for the singing ability of its pupils.

Children from the kindergarten participated in the chorus of kindergarten children several times, an event which President Kim IL Sung appreciated.They had commemorative photos taken with him. Now they are engrossed in practice for their participation in the Song Festival, which is going to be held on the 90th birthday of President Kim IL Sung.

To bring up the children well, Kim Jong IL sent a collection of world-famous fairy tales, and musical instruments to the kindergarten.

Thanks to his close interest and the efforts of the teachers, the kindergarten has become famous throughout the country.

Demonstration lessons have been held dozens of times at the kindergarten.

The kindergarten has also been visited by a number of foreigners.

Visitors say that the level of the Korean pre-school education is of the highest standard and

cal and emotional contents of every musical piece more deeply and profoundly in reliance upon the basic melody.

In order to solve these difficult problems, she put her energy into deepening her knowledge of harmonics and literature, often staying up till late at night, and continuously polished melodies while walking along the streets or taking meals. One day, having found a melody in her dream, she leapt out of her bed and rushed to write it down. In this way, she arranged more than ten new musical pieces for the guitar through her deep meditation and painstaking efforts.

Song played the pieces she had created in front of her teachers and classmates for she wanted to hear their opinions as to whether there was something yet to be desired from the music.

Her guitar solos were received with hearty rounds of applause.

Out of the pieces she had perfected, she selected five, including "Where Are You, Dear General?" "My Father", "Thank You, Leader Kim Jong IL" and "Song of the Young Partisans”, tape-recorded them and sent them to leader Kim Jong IL, along with a letter expressing her earnest wish for him to live in good health.

Busy as the leader was with the affairs of state, he gave her the honour of personally reading her letter, sent in April last year.

On the day she heard the glorious news, she shouted from the bottom of her heart, overcome with emotion. Her eyes were wet with tears of gratitude.

“I will write music for the guitar and play more skillfully, sing songs more beautifully, and thus become an excellent musician, with the warm love respected Kim Jong Ii showed for me and the great confidence he placed in me engraved forever in my mind.”

# A Tax-Free Country

Last year new houses were built at Ryudong-ri, Unsan County, South Phyongan Province, providing homes for 110 families.

Each house offers good living conditions to its new occupants.

Ri Pong Sun, 86, born in the village, was very glad to receive the keys to a new house. He said that his old house was fine, but he was now able to live in this better one without paying a single penny.

Ri took the opportunity to remind his family of the past situation in the country.

Before national liberation (August 1945), taxes were the scourge of the Korean people. Under the military occupation of the Japanese imperialists, scores of direct taxes were forced upon the tormented population.

It has been said that if tax collectors came, even children were frightend to crying. The dream of a life free from taxes came true only after national liberation.

The state set the solution of the tax problem as one of important tasks for the building of a new society and took measures to achieve that goal. The popular tax system in the DPRK was a source of additional revenue for the country and was used as a supplementary means to equalize the living standards of people from all walks of life. Peasants were given land thanks to the agrarian reform undertaken after the country's liberation. They delivered to the state 25 per cent of their grain harvest from the distributed land every year, keeping the remainder for themselves. Later, the rate of this agricultural tax-in-kind was steadily lowered, and in the mid1960s it was completely abolished. At the time, income taxes levied on factory and office workers, and local self-government taxes paid by all the population, remained. The rate of these taxes was systematically reduced and became insignificant by the 1970s.

The DPRK steadily lightened the tax burden, and in Juche 63 (1974) the tax system, a leftover of the old society, was completely abolished. The DPRK became the world's first tax-free country.

In fact, long before the abolition of the tax system universal free education and a universal free medical service had been introduced. The state supplied food to the population for next to nothing, and the state-purchase prices of agricultural products were raised to increase the incomes of the cooperative farmers. These were all measures taken for the good of the people.

In recent years, the DPRK has experienced many difficulties in socialist construction due to the operations of the US-led imperialist allied forces to isolate and stifle it. Trains stopped running, and factories and enterprises suspended production.

The imperialists gloated that socialism in Korea would not last long. But they were mistaken.

The Workers' Party of Korea and the DPRK government have not renounced their people-centred policies despite such difficulties.

Social benefits have steadily increased, and better houses have been built free of charge.

Highly proud of living in the tax-free country, the Korean people are working harder than ever to build a powerful nation.

*Yun Yang Gum*

admire the fact that the children are characteristically healthy, cheerful and disciplined.

They are unsparing in their praise, saying that they had been given a cheerful image of Korean children, the "King" of the country.

Foreign students studying in Korea frequently come here for teaching practice.

During their practice period, they say, they become aware of how the cheerful disposition and the sense of unity of Korean children are formed, pledging to bring up their children in the same way.

The kindergarten has a sister-school relationship with June 1st Kindergarten of Yanji City in China. In October last year, a ceremony to mark the formal establishment of the relationship was held in Pyongyang.

The head of the Chinese kindergarten visited Okryu No.2 ten years ago. Ties were formed between the two and several events subsequently took place.

Over the years, the relationship between the two kindergartens became close, leading to the formal link-up last year.

The relationship became one of the symbols of the friendship between Korea and China.

The healthy and cheerful children of these two kindergartens will undoubtedly contribute to the further development of the friendship between the two countries.

*Kim Il bang*

# The Women Behind the Medals

Namhung Senior Middle School in Waudo District, Nampho, a port city on the west coast of Korea, retains 585 gold medals, 10 victory banners and 7 trophies from national contests of gymnastic dance. These achievements over the last 15 years may be attributed to the quiet efforts made by Song Jong Sil, 41, the gymnastic dance teacher.

Song decided to become a teacher when she was 16. Just before her graduation from Namchon Senior Middle School, Kaechon City, South Phyongan Province, she gave much thought to her future. Born the fifth daughter of a casual labourer in Nashinari District, Osaka, Japan, she was brought up in the DPRK. The country provided the environment for her talent in gymnastic dance to blossom. She realized that the happy life she led would be unthinkable without the country's care, and resolved to dedicate herself to development of the gymnastic dance in the country.

She studied at the department of physical education of Phyongsong University of Education, and became a teacher.

One of her first projects as a gymnastic dance .teacher was the organization of a special gymnastic dance group at her school. She gave lessons in the morning and guided the students' extracurricular activities in the afternoon. Though she was busy, she planned basic exercises for the students to maintain their flexibility in line with their physical development. Then came an allout effort to choreograph dances reflecting the active reality of the country, which built on the basic exercises.

When the West Sea Barrage was under construction, she went to the site and worked with the builders. Experiencing the actual conditions on site, she studied hard how to truthfully depict the builders. Nine months of devoted efforts produced the dance piece "Proud of the West Sea Barrage". The work won the third prize at the national schoolchildren's contest of gymnastic dance in October the following year. It was to be the first of many awards recognizing her achievements as a gymnastic dance teacher.

Greatly encouraged, Song spurred herself to raise the students' skills to a higher level and create new, original works.

Her endeavour bore fine fruit, and dances such as "Flocks of Doves Flying Over Pyongyang", "Flower of Reunification" and "Double Rainbow Over Jong IL Peak" were praised as masterpieces.

When the construction of the Youth Hero Motorway between Pyongyang and Nampho was under way, Song, again working with the builders on the site, produced 13 dance pieces and put them on stage a total of 1,500 times.

In all, the works have been placed first at 18 national contests of gymnastic dance and art festivals, receiving trophies and gold medals. The school's dancers were given the honour of performing at the mass gymnastic and artistic display "Ever-Victorious Workers' Party of Korea". They are now demonstrating their skills in the preparations for another mass display, "Arirang", to be staged this spring.

As many as 160 of the school's dancers have become teachers of gymnastic dance, and 19 have been selected by national sports teams.

In recognition of Song's devoted work, the country invited her to the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students, the national conference of model teachers, the second conference of pioneers of the grand Chollima advance and other major events. She now enjoys the worthy title of performer of merit.

Thanks to such sincere teachers as Song, who has devoted her life to the education of future generations, the country is sure to have a bright future.

**Song Jong Sil creating a new gymnastic dance piece.**

# The Motherland to Which He Returned in His Last Years

## Chapter 2. Discovery of a "New World"

### 1. "Why Have You Come Only Now?"

A passenger plane was flying the international air route between Moscow and Pyongyang.

Among the passengers was Choe Tok Sin, who had left New York for his first trip to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The pilot announced that the plane had entered the DPRK's territorial air space.

Leaning against the window, he looked down. Nothing was distinguishable yet except a sea of clouds.

But Choe could not quiet his thumping heart. His eyes blurred with tears.

I have come to my native land, he muttered to himself. He felt an irresistible urge to embrace with open arms the mountains and rivers of his native country which loomed up like a phantom in his mind.

But the next moment a feeling of unrest consumed him.

How will the people in the north of Korea treat me?

Anxiety gripped him.

He had once opposed the DPRK, he himself holding important posts in the south Korean regime. He was haunted by the thought that he could not conceal this stark fact, nor had he any word to say in excuse.

On the other hand, he was reassured by the fact that he had received a letter from the DPRK and the words Choe Hong Hui had said to him.

He realized that he had little alternative but to entrust his affairs to the magnanimity of the DPRK.

He calculated that he had better leave the DPRK quietly after visiting his father's grave, because meeting with a kind reception was the last thing he could think of.

The plane finally landed at Pyongyang airport, but Choe did not hurry with his preparations for getting off the plane. He remained motionless, with his back against his tilt-back seat with the intention of getting up from his seat only after all the foreign delegations and Korean officials returning from foreign tours had left theirs to alight from the plane.

The feeling of uneasiness remained, however. He didn't know why.

Just at that moment, the cabin of the plane rang with a voice calling him.

"Who is Choe Tok Sin?"

"?!"

"Sir, are you not Mr. Choe? Please quickly prepare to get off the plane."

All eyes turned upon him.

Led by the guide, he got off the plane. There was no more time to think.

After alighting from the plane, he was surprised again, because he found several high-ranking officials come nut. to meet him on his arrival.

He could not but be astonished by and feel greatly obliged for the unusually warm treatment accorded him, a man who was no more than a political exile.

The officials warmly grasped his hand one by one and a sweet-faced girl gave him a bunch of fragrant flowers. The reception enabled him to enjoy at once the warmth of his fellow countrymen, a warmth he could never feel at airports in the United States, West Germany and Japan.

He got in a waiting car and headed for the city.

Pyongyang was more attractive than he had expected.

Everything was in apple-pie order and passers-by were all neatly dressed. Their faces beamed with smiles and they seemed full of hope and confidence.

**Choe Hak Sin and his wife paying silent homage at his father’s grave.**

Formerly, he had believed that communism and nationalism were incompatible with each other. He had therefore thought that he would see in the DPRK a society diametrically different from a national one. As a result, everything he saw and felt was new to him, almost as though he had stepped into a "new world", like explorer Columbus discovering the American continent.

The day after his arrival in Pyongyang he decided to visit the grave of his father.

He reached the grave, located in a surburb of Pyongyang, by car and was surprised once again.

The grave, covered by a large mound of earth, lay on a sunny hillside. Standing in front of it was a gravestone more than a metre high, engraved with the epitaph "Patriot Choe Tong O".

He could not take his eyes from the stone.

Patriot! What an honourable title! Few can enjoy such an honour, nor is it awarded by any individual.

With this thought, he inwardly said the word “patriot” over and over again.

Since his childhood, Choe had respected his father as a patriot, for he had pushed his way along the arduous path to restore the country's independence. However, his father was not a communist, but a Chondoist believer and a nationalist. That realization caused him further surprise.

My father was bestowed the highest honour of being declared a patriot by the DPRK authorities. What does this mean? If he had remained in south Korea he would never receive such an honour.

Choe felt grateful for the DPRK's favour of recognizing his father as a patriot regardless of differences in ideology. He could not raise his head.

What was more surprising was the fact that the graves of Ryu Tong Ryol (his father-in-law), Kim Kyu Sik and An Jae Hong, high officials of the Provisional Government of Korea in Shanghai in the past, were also visible near his father's grave. In front of them were gravestones engraved with the word "patriot."

They had wanted to be buried in their homeland.

He threw himself on his knees before his father's grave and closed his eyes. Tears stole down his face and fell in drops on the brass bowl brimful of clear water. Many farback memories wrung his heart, causing him to repent an undutiful son. He could not stop the tears from streaming down his cheeks.

Taken into the embrace of the DPRK during the past Fatherland Liberation War, his father had been under the exceptional loving care of President Kim Ii Sung. Shortly before his death he had left the words, "Although Tok Sin is dancing to the tune of the wicked, some day he will come to himself and find the right path."

Choe learned how long his father had waited for him, an unfilial son. He was seized with a bitter remorse for having failed to act as wished by his father.

The image of his father flashed across his mind, the father who had scolded him severely on his return home after participating in the Joint Conference of Representatives of Political Parties and Social Organizations from North and South which was convened in Pyongyang in Juche 37 (1948).

If he had borne the words of his father in mind at that time, his body and mind would not have been soiled as they were today.

"Father..."

Bursting into tears, he knelt before the spirit of his deceased father and asked for forgiveness again and again as he had done as a child during the times he had been whipped on the calves of his legs with his trousers pulled up to the knees and rebuked by his father.

After his visit to the grave, his mind turned to his native village in Uiju County, North Phyongan Province.

He set foot in Sodanggol again, the village where he was born and grew up and which he had been eager to see, even in a dream, after the passing of more than 50 years.

Where only a few straw-thatched houses had stood in former days, good, modern dwellings were now standing in rows. He was dumbfounded for a while, but after carefully surveying the lay of the land, he realized that it was unmistakably his birthplace, Sodanggol.

Almost breaking into a run, he went to the place where the village schoolhouse had been in the past. He then took a handful of earth from the yard and rubbed it against his cheek.

Tears once again gushed from his eyes.

It was the earth his father and mother had cherished in their youthful days, the earth of the village where his umbilical cord had been cut. The smell of the soil of his birthplace penetrated into his heart. It was the place where he, overcome with the sorrow of a ruined people, had shed tears while taking off without any promise to return again.

He was now making up for his past mistakes with tears in his eyes, hiding a silent conversation with that soil about his pent-up remorse and the sadness of a life spent so far with a sense of futility.

Led by the hand by two young people, an old woman hurriedly approached him.

On looking into her eyes, he was sure she was his mother's youngest sister.

When he was a child, she would take him by the wrist to the edge of a nearby stream so she could play at being a mother. If he gave her some song and dance about having sore or tired feet while walking, she used to carry him pickaback.

Whenever he returned home after getting whipped on the calves of his legs by the teacher at the village schoolhouse, she used to calm him down, moistening the weals with spit. That dear maternal aunt was now standing in front of him.

"Maternal aunt, I am Jong Ho. Do you recognize me?"

"Are you really Jong Ho? Let me see...

The aunt hugged him.

Many relatives and formerly close acquaintances came running.

They felt awkward momentarily, but blood was not water after all. The feeling of the same flesh and blood enabled them to intermingle with each other, addressing each other as "elder brother", "younger

(Continued on page 43)

# King Kogukwon's Mausoleum

The murals in the tombs of Koguryo, the first Korean feudal state (277BC-668), are of remarkable value in the nation's mediaeval cultural heritage, both in their richness and their artistic quality. The number of Koguryo tombs with murals discovered so far amounts to more than 90. Among them, King Kogukwon's mausoleum ranks first for its admirable architectural style and the content of the murals.

Buried under ground, the mausoleum sank into oblivion as the centuries passed. It was unearthed in Juche 38 (1949).

The mausoleum lies on the ridge of a small hill which juts out of a field in Oguk-ri, Anak County, South Hwanghae Province.

After digging down one side of the hillock to a depth enough for a half-underground structure, the main chamber for laying the remains of the deceased in state and some other rooms were built, and earth was heaped over them. The earth heaped up over the mausoleum is 33 metres froni south to north and nearly 3C metres from east to west in size and nearly 6 metres in height.

In addition to the aforesaid chamber, a doorway, front room. two side rooms built on the easi and west sides of the chamber respectively; a back room and a T-shaped corridor can be found Every room is partitioned off by a large well-trimmed rock and has octagonal or quardrilateral pillars and a door. The design gives the appearance of a building above ground. The door is visible on the north side of the doorway The door leaf weighs more thar 500 kilogrammes, yet the door opens and closes well, as if it were fitted with a bearing device for reducing friction.

Murals can be seen on stone walls, mainly showing the people and customs of the time.

The murals in the doorway show guards of the king, while those in the front room are dedicated to the description of a guard of honour, a variety of dances, and martial arts.

One of the murals in the western side room features the king discussing the affairs of state with his government officers, receiving reports and giving some instructions to them. The king is shown wearing a white crown, the crown worn only by Koguryo kings, and is dressed in silks, sitting on a wooden bed. The other portrays the queen being attended by court maids.

Warriors holding the government posts, "Janghadok" stand on either side of the entrance to this room, each carrying a sword by his side.

The past career of a warrior is written in the upper part of the picture of "Janghadok" on the left side of the entrance, providing evidence that the mausoleum was built in the middle of the 4th century.

Pictures painted on the walls of the eastern side room show facilities used in everyday life, such as a kitchen, a butcher's, a well, a rice-cleaning mill, a cow-shed, a stable, and a storehouse. Another on the east wall of the back room depicts people dancing to music.

The figures and customs painting at King Kogukwon's Mausoleum.

Pictures painted on the wall of the corridor show the king mounting on an ox-drawn carriage and a long procession of servants formed of 250 men going ahead of the carriage as guides. Worthy of attention in this picture is the "Songsangbon" flag (one of the flags used in various state ceremonies and functions in feudal society) fixed to the side of the carriage. This gives further evidence that the mausoleum is that of the king.

The ceiling features patterns of the sun, the moon, clouds, lotus flowers, and lanterns.

The murals in King Kogukwon's mausoleum remain unchanged in colour even today, despite the passing of 1,600 years.

They illustrate well the remarkable talent of the ancient Koreans as well as giving an insight into various aspects of life and the level of development of science, technology and pictorial art of the Koguryo people.

Jong Son, a painter, once took a sightseeing tour of the Mt. Kumgang area, drawing many pictures of Manphok Valley, Kuryong Pond, Lagoon Samil, and Sea Kumgang. The landscapes were so fine that the scenic beauty of Mt. Kumgang seemed to have been placed directly on his paper.

One day after his tour, a neighbour sent a silk skirt to Jong for a decoration. Unfortunately, Jong's wife accidentally spilled some soup onto the skirt while looking at it.

The skirt was so stained that she was deeply worried. Jong Son, with a smile on his face, let her remove the upper waistband and then smooth it out to wash the dirty part.

Spreading the washed skirt out on the floor, Jong Son drew a picture of Mt. Kumgang on it. It was so splendid that all the peaks and valleys of the mountain seemed to be right there on the skirt.

After a few days, the neighbour returned to pick up the skirt.

Jong Son said to him, "As I love painting, I drew a picture of Mt. Kumgang on the skirt. But I'm sure your wife and daughter would be greatly surprised to see it. I don't really know what to do with it."

With that, he spread the skirt in front of him.

The neighbour was taken aback, saying that it was a masterpiece, and gave many thanks to Jong. After taking it to his house, he returned with a feast as a reward.

As the skirt consisted of three strips, he kept the largest as a family treasure. He took the other two strips with him on a journey to Yan Jing (now Beijing).

A monk from Sichuan Province, highly praising the picture, asked him to sell it for 100 niang of silver (a unit of old Chinese coinage) as he wanted to hang it behind an image of Buddha in a newly built temple.

Their negotiations were interrupted by a classic scholar from Nanjing, who said that he would add 20 niang to 100 niang, the price offered by the monk.

The monk scolded the scholar, saying the price had already been fixed. He then laid out 150 niang of silver.

The owner of the picture gave it to the monk, explaining that he could only accept 50 niang from a man like him.

brother", "sister-in-law" or "brother-in-law", and to hug each other with happy tears in their eyes.

His aunt said, "Why have you come only now, having buried your mother's bones in some far-off place? Why do you live in a foreign country, leaving your country, your motherland, behind?"

He could not reply, remaining standing with his head down.

What could he say to her?

The appearance of his native village had changed beyond recognition.

It is said that in the past, the villagers were so poor that they shared a handful of rice with relatives up to their third cousin. But they were now living happily, lacking nothing in the world.

His relatives were respectable and dignified.

Among them were a Party worker, a factory worker, a dance guidance teacher at the Pyongyang Students and Children's Palace, a doctor of medicine and several farm sub-workteam leaders.

Looking at their bright faces, he questioned himself.

For what and for whom did I rain bullets and shells upon these people?

His aunt again asked a question of him. "Why have you come only now?"

Her affectionate ringing voice touched his heart.

"Aunt."..

There was no easy answer to give.

His past life came back into his mind, the life he had led, leaving behind his own flesh and blood, the warm-hearted people in his native village and the mountains and streams of the native land where he was born and brought up.

What is the source of love for one's country? I am sure it starts from love for one's parents and relatives, affectionate neighbours and the mountains and streams of one's native land.

He came at last to fully realize that he had cast away all that was most beautiful and noble.

In the native place to which he had returned at the age of 65, after wandering the world, he became aware of what he had foresaken, felt most poignantly the warm embrace of his own flesh and blood, his fellow countrymen and his motherland, and could confirm it from the bottom of his heart.

(To be continued in the next issue)

# Deceptive Three Non-Nuclear Principles

It was the "greatest mistake" that the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to former Japanese prime minister Sato Eisaku in 1974. So said the compiler of a book on the history of the Nobel Peace Prize at a recent press conference.

Sato, who was prime minister from 1964 to 1972, received the prize for "opposing nuclear weapons and contributing to peace". But his appraisal was a black lie. In fact he played a harmful role of increasing the danger of nuclear war and jeopardizing peace.

The compiler stressed at his press conference that the American documents released in 1999 showed that in principle Sato did not oppose nuclear weapons.

Sato's important "merit" appraised as "opposing nuclear weapons and contributing to peace" is the three non-nuclear principles.

The three non-nuclear principles which he proposed as government policy in 1967 were for Japan “not to make nuclear weapons, not to possess them and not to introduce them". In reality these principles were intended to paralyze anti-nuclear sentiment in Japan and to conceal the conversion of the country into a nuclear base and its nuclear arming.

The criminal consequence of the three principles was the conversion of Japan into a US nuclear base. The Sato government concluded an agreement with the US that the latter would "discuss" with Japan in advance of introducing nuclear weapons onto Japanese territory. The "advance discussion" was a gesture to imply that there were no nuclear weapons on Japanese territory.

According to a number of recent documents, the Sato government concluded a secret agreement with the US permitting the free movement of US warships and aircraft carrying nuclear weapons in Japan. As is clear from this, the Sato government's three non-nuclear principles are a hypocrite having different two faces. Even when US nuclear submarines come to Japanese ports without inspection or without prior notification the Japanese government cannot say a word of protest.

In emergencies such as the Persian Gulf War or the Yugoslavian conflict, the number of US nuclear powered warships coming to the Japanese ports increased sharply. To tighten the situation on the Korean peninsula to start a war the US frequently sends nuclear powered warships to the military and civilian ports of Japan.

In February last year the flagship of the US Seventh Fleet, "Blue Ridge", came to the Tokyo port.

The three non-nuclear principles have turned Japan into the US imperialists' nuclear offensive base, which has increased the danger of involving Japan in a nuclear conflict.

It is particularly grave that despite the three principles, Japan paved the way to its nuclear armament and has now begun to make it a reality.

At the budgetary committee of the Diet House of Representatives on February 10, 1969, Sato said that Japan can possess nuclear weapons "for defensive purposes". This was an official expression of Japan's intention to possess nuclear weapons, which would mean the abrogation of the three principles.

Sato had secretly expressed his desire to possess nuclear weapons much earlier. At talks with US president Lyndon Johnson in 1965, Sato said that "if China has nuclear weapons, Japan must also possess nuclear, weapons." (May 24, 1998 Kyoto Tsushin) At his talks with the US ambassador to Japan on December 29, 1964, Sato, expressing his wish to produce nuclear weapons, said, "Nucleus is priced lower than generally thought and Japan can fully produce it with its science and industrial technology." (August 5, 1999 Mainichi Shimbun)

The Japanese government made a plan to arm the country with nuclear weapons and actively pushed it forward as state policy.

In 1969, the Japanese foreign ministry produced a secret document on "possessing the capacity to manufacture nuclear weapons," which showed that Japan had started the development of nuclear weapons in earnest.

A US congressman, in his testimony on March 21, 1978, to the US House Foreign Relations Committee, said that Japan was already storing enough plutonium to manufacture 200 nuclear weapons every year.

Japan is importing a substantial quantity of plutonium from abroad and building establishments for reprocessing nuclear waste and fast breeder reactors to rapidly increase the production of plutonium.

A confidential document of the US embassy in Japan made public on September 1, 1999, said that Japan has 30 tons of plutonium, with which it could make 4,000 nuclear weapons.

Japan plans to secure 100 tons of plutonium by 2010, enough to enable Japan to manufacture more nuclear warheads than the US and Russia possess together.

Japan's nuclear-weapon manufacturing technology and delivery technology are already at the world-class levels. Experts are unanimous in saying that Japan can be a nuclear power any time it decides.

The vast number of nuclear weapons Japan will possess are intended to be used in an actual war. Whenever UN or other international conferences discuss resolution on banning of use of nuclear weapons, Japan is in the vanguard of the opposition. This is because Japan has the intention to use them.

The Japanese authorities openly insist that the

Ultra-nationalism is the most reactionary and exclusive form of nationalism. It appeared in Japan in the mid19th century on the pretext of defending "what is peculiar" to the country.

"What is peculiar" to the Japanese nation as advertised by the ultra nationalists is the "national tradition and lineage" of the exploiting class. It was designed to deceive the people under the cloak of "nation" and justify the reactionary doctrine and acts of aggression of the

use of nuclear weapons does not violate international or national laws.

The Japanese foreign ministry said in a statement sent to the International Court of Justice in June 1994, that the use of nuclear weapons could not be a violation of international law.

The director general of the Japanese Cabinet

Legislation Bureau said at the budget committee of the House of Councilors of the Japanese Diet on June 17, 1998, that the "use of nuclear weapons by Japan would be permissible under the constitution." Japan abrogated the three non-nuclear principles banning the production, possession and introduction of nuclear weapons, and is now declaring that the use of nuclear weapons is lawful.

Under the cover of the three non-nuclear principles, Japan has turned into a US nuclear base and paved the way to becoming a nuclear superpower. It is waiting for a chance to manufacture and use nuclear weapons for overseas invasion.

Japan was the world's first victim of nuclear bombs. The Japanese authorities like to talk about their status as the world's only nuclear victim, but they must not forget the desire of the Japanese people, the true victims of nuclear weapons.

*Choe Pang Chol*

# The Dream That Never Dies

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The Japanese foreign ministry said in a statement sent to the International Court of Justice in June 1994, that the use of nuclear weapons could not be a violation of international law.

The director general of the Japanese Cabinet

Legislation Bureau said at the budget committee of

the House of Councilors of the Japanese Diet on

June 17, 1998, that the "use of nuclear weapons by Japan would be permissible under the constitution." Japan abrogated the three non-nuclear principles banning the production, possession and introduction of nuclear weapons, and is now declaring that the use of nuclear weapons is lawful.

Under the cover of the three non-nuclear principles, Japan has turned into a US nuclear base and paved the way to becoming a nuclear superpower. It is waiting for a chance to manufacture and use nuclear weapons for overseas invasion.

Japan was the world's first victim of nuclear bombs. The Japanese authorities like to talk about their status as the world's only nuclear victim, but they must not forget the desire of the Japanese people, the true victims of nuclear weapons.

Choe Pang Chol

ultra-nationalists, who frantically stirred up the desire for overseas expansion by advocating exclusive nationalism and supporting it with fascist ideology.

The ultra-nationalists preached the foolish belief that the "congenitally superior" Japanese nation had a "right given by God" to conquer and rule other "congenitally inferior nations". The reactionary Japanese rulers formed such ultra-nationalist political organizations as the "Great Japan

Ultra-Nationalist Association" in the early 20th century and extensively advocated the aggressive nationalist idea that the "Yamato (Japanese) nation is superior" and was discharged with the mission to "lead" other countries and nations. By doing so, they imbued the ideology and consciousness of the Japanese people with fascism and drove them to overseas aggression. Today, ultranationalist ideas and organizations are gaining ground in Japan.

# Who Is Responsible for Delay of LWR Project?

In the kumho area of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea the LWR project has been carried out by the United States. But it has now been delayed, giving rise to a serious situation. In October 1994, the DPRK-US Agreed Framework was adopted. The key point is the provision of light water reactors by the US in return for a freeze in the DPRK's nuclear development programme. Under this framework, the US agreed to make arrangements for the provision to the DPRK of light water reactors to offset the electricity generating capacity forgone due to the freeze of the DPRK's graphite-moderated reactors and related establishments.

The US promise to provide the DPRK with light water reactors with a total generating capacity of 2 million kw by a target date of 2003 is based on the freeze of the graphite-moderated reactors under construction in the DPRK and its abandonment of new construction project.

At the time, the DPRK planned to complete the construction of graphite-moderated reactors with a generating capacity of 50,000 kw and 200,000 kw and undertake a number of other construction projects, with the aim of creating a total generating capacity of 2 million kw by 2003.

Originally, the DPRK planned to buy light water reactors from western countries but for political reasons it was unable to do this.

So, it buckled down to the development of its own nuclear power technology based on uranium and graphite, abundant in Korea, and succeed in developing the technology for graphite-moderated reactors. But the US created the " nuclear crisis", voicing its suspicions of the DPRK's nuclear development and taking issue with the DPRK's construction of graphite-moderated reactors. Consequently, DPRK-US talks were held to settle the " nuclear problem" and after " heated discussion", the DPRK-US Agreed Framework was adopted.

The DPRK-US Agreed Framework is a legally binding document which stresses the need to improve relations between the two countries.

Both sides expected to assuage the security concerns of the US with the freeze in development of the graphite-moderated reactors and related establishments, end the DPRK's distrust of the US and build up trust by the US provision to the DPRK of light water reactors, in the line with the Agreed Framework.

In other words, DPRK is completely fulfilling its duty under the said framework.

However, the LWR project to be provided to the DPRK by the target date of 2003 has been seriously delayed, and the prospects for its completion are bleak.

The current state of affairs, when nearly 8 years have passed since the adoption of the agrred framework, is this: the LWR project started only in August 1997 , the arrangements of the building site to be ended within 14 months were completed basically in August last year, and in early September the excavation of the foundations started.

If LWR project is not completed by the target date of 2003, a serious situation may be created.

DPRK-US relations are not currently based on trust, but are instead hostile. Accordingly, the agreed framework stipulates that simultaneous measures must be taken, specially the DPRK's nuclear freeze in return for the provision of LWRs by the US.

If the US does not fulfil its responsibility to provide LWPs by the target date of 2003, the DPRK will be forced to respond with the ending of our nuclear freeze. The DPRK, which has maintained the nuclear freeze, cannot sit idle, suffering damage to is economy and living standards.

Though many years have passed since the agreed framework was adopted, the DPRK-US relations are still characterized by distrust and misunderstanding, and after the advent of the new US administrations, that distrust and misunderstanding has become more pronounced.

Originally, the agreed framework resulted from the DPRK's willingness to sacrifice the development of its independent nuclear power industry. the DPRK made this political concession with the intention of assuaging US suspicions of " nuclear weapon development" and building confidence between the DPRK and US.

But the US-contrived delays to the LWR project arouses suspicion of the DPRK that the US might be pursuing an impure political aim, instead of providing with LWRs.

After the formation of KEDO (Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization) in March 1995, intended to provide the LWR s, the US seriously delayed the LWR project, debating on the problem of the dividend and other internal circumstances. It has delayed the project intentionally, intent on raising political issues such as the " Problem of missiles" and " suspicion on underground nuclear establishments."

The US side, a party to the agreed framework, is wholly responsible for the delay.

Though KEDO has taken charge of the project, the US cannot avoid responsibility for the delay of the project.

Defined in the DPRK-US Agreed Framework is the fact that the US should form an international organization intended to raise the funds and secure necessary equipment for the LWR project, and on behalf of it, the US should complete the project responsibility.

In December 1995 the US signed the written agreed framework, which prescribed that the US, the basic party responsible for the provision of the LWRs, should complete the LWR project under the condition that the key has to be handed over.

In his letter of assurance dated October 1994, the US president said that if the project is not completed by KEDO, the United States of America will exercise all is authority to complete it itself. The US administration would have to take new measures to complete it by 2003 as the US president assured, to cope with any delay to the LWR project.

However, the US administration has not yet taken any measures for this.

What the US has to do now is to take steps to compensate for the 2 million kw loss of electricity which the DPRK will suffer from 2003.

The 500,000 tons of heavy oil to be provided by the US every year until the construction of LWR No. 1, specified in the agreed framework, is compensation for the freeze of the DPRK's graphite-moderated reactors with a generating capacity of 50,000 kw and 200,000 kw, which were about to be put into operation at the time of the adoption of the agreed framework.

At the DPRK-US talks held in New York in March 2000, the DPRK proposed to the US that compensation be given for the loss of electricity the DPRK will suffer. It emphasized that the compensation for the DPRK's loss of electricity must be made in the form of electricity; if the US was unable to do this, a member nation of KEDO would be allowed to do so; if agreement was reached in principle between the DPRK and the US, the DPRK could discuss practical matters with the nation concerned.

In international relations it is standard practice to compensate the loss a party concerned suffers by another party's non-fulfillment of its responsibilities. Changes in governments should not affect that principle. Nevertheless, officials of the new US administration talk about the revision of the agreed framework instead of responding to the DPRK's request for compensation.

As the DPRK-US Agreed Framework defines the provision of LWRs by the US in return for the DPRK's nuclear freeze, the DPRK cannot but regard the failure of the US to fulfil the obligations set out in the agreement a an attempt to shirk its responsibility for the provision of the LWRs and abrogate the agreed framework.

Due compensation for the electricity loss is made or not –that is the issue. If compensation is not made, the graphite-moderated reactors will be revived in the DPRK. Taking into consideration the sentiment of the Korean people, the DPRK cannot contemplate of the Korean people, the DPRK cannot contempt an outcome which does not involve compensation.

If the US is really going to shirk responsibility for the provision of LWRs and compensation for the electricity loss, despite being duty bound by the agreed framework, it will result in the DPRK going its own way.

# Stumbling Block to Korea's Reunification
# World Denounces US

To put an end to half a century of national division is not only the cherished desire of the Korean people but the unanimous demand of the progressive people of the world. That is why the United States has been to so vehemently denounced for occupying south Korea military and blocking the peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula, desperately trying to ignite a new war.

In a statement, the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (M-L) said that the process of peace and reunification on the Korean peninsula which has been pushed forward with the widespread support and encouragement of the people of the world, is now faced with grave challenges because of the hard-line policy of the Bush administration toward the DPRK. The statement went on to say:

The hard-line policy of the US endangers the positive development of the situation on the Korean peninsula.

Due to the moves of the US to establish the missile defence system, with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as a " main target", world peace is threatened.

There can be no doubt that the hard-line policy of the Bush administration is aimed at justifying the continued presence of its forces in south Korea.

The chairman of the People's Front of Workers, Peasants and Students of Peru said that though progressive had been made in the implementation of the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration, the US imperialists continue to hamper the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea. He added:

Originally, the division of Korea into north and south was enforced by the US and other foreign powers. The responsibility for the failure to achieve Korea's reunification rests with the US.

Since the north and the south of Korea have declared their will to achieve national reunification independently by the concerted efforts of the Korean nation, there are no grounds whatsoever for the stationing of US troops in south Korea.

US forces must withdraw from south Korean immediately.

In his statement, the chairman of the Swiss Committee for the Support of Korea's Reunification pointed out that it is high time for the US to pull out of south korea and terminate its interference in Korean issues.

He continued:

"Détente on the Korean peninsula after the publication of the North-South Joint Declaration and the contact between of high-ranking officials of the DPRK and the US in 2000 was brought to naught because of the advent of the Bush administration.

"The current US administration is openly preparing a second Korean war. Its missile defence system regards the DPRK as the prime target."

He condemned the militaristic hysteria of the US imperialists, and emphasized: The US should withdraw all its troops and nuclear weapons from south Korea and dismantle its military bases there, drop all sanctions against the DPRK, apologize for all crimes committed against for all crimes committed against the Korean people and compensate bereaved families.

In a statement titled " US Troops' Pullout from South Korea Is the Demand of the Times", the national chairman of the Worker Peasant Party for Struggle of Madagascar said that the US is keying up tension on the Korean peninsula by introducing more and more military equipment into south Korea, despite strong protest and denunciation in Korea and around the world. That processs has continued in the 21st century, he added.

He went on:

We regard this as a deliberate attempt to check the development of north-south relations which has improved considerably in the wake of the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration, and maintain the US military presence in south Korea. The US is seeking to realize its hawkish ambitions against socialist Korea and establish its domination over the world at any cost by attacking countries in Asia and other regions. We denounce it categrorically.

There is no longer any justification whatsoever for US troops to remain in south Korea.

## Korean Proverbs

When a family prospers, it is visited by many guests.
Pleasure comes after hardship.
In hard times, a true friend is confirmed.

**A dance to celebrate the holiday.**